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House works State Security Court law

AMMAN (Pena) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday approved the State Security Court law after amending a paragraph in it. The House will resume debating the law next Sunday. The House, which met under the chairmanship of Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyeh, decided to refer temporary law No. 11 for the year 1980 to its legal committee. The law was returned to the House by the Upper House for amendments. The Upper House is expected to hold a meeting Thursday evening under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Leidi and in the presence of Cabinet members to discuss several draft laws. The Lower House's Foreign Affairs Committee will also meet Thursday morning to discuss the political situation in the Soviet Union. The Parliamentary Investigation Committee will also meet Saturday.

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Gorbachev back in power

Coup leaders flee; West hails Yeltsin for resistance

Combined agency despatches

THE COUP AGAINST Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed Wednesday. Coup leaders fled the capital, and military units deployed after the takeover withdrew.

Rejoicing crowds cheered and waved flags outside the Russian Parliament, which served as the headquarters for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who led coup resistance since Monday. Soldiers, their tanks strewn with flowers, waved at television cameras.

Leaders of the national legislature invalidated all decrees made by the coup leaders, national lawmaker Yuri Karyakin told the Russian legislature. He gave no details about the vote.

"The President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR rules that the removal of President Mikhail Gorbachev from his constitutional duties and their transfer to the vice-president was illegal," TASS said, quoting a presidential declaration.

Mr. Gorbachev himself said in a

statement read on state-run television Wednesday night that he was "in full control of the situation," and will resume "full execution of his duties in the next 24 hours."

Mr. Gorbachev credited "decisive actions of the democratic forces of the country" for felling the coup against him.

The statement was read by an announcer. Mr. Gorbachev did not appear on television.

Mr. Gorbachev said he spoke with Mr. Yeltsin, and the leaders of Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Uzbekistan, according to the statement.

"They all denounced the attempted state coup, which was prevented as a result of decisive actions of the democratic forces of the country," the statement said.

"They understood that no anti-constitutional actions were supported by the supreme authorities or the people of their republics. Assurances were expressed that the perpetrators would be held fully and completely responsible for their unlawful actions," the Gorbachev statement said.

With the coup's demise, the Communist Party moved to salvage its own credibility. It called the takeover unconstitutional and demanded a



Mikhail Gorbachev

meeting with Mr. Gorbachev, the party chief, the state-run news agency TASS said. The party renounced any connection with the coup leaders.

The Soviet prosecutor also opened a criminal investigation into the actions of the eight men who staged the 59-hour-long coup, TASS reported. It quoted the prosecutor's office as saying the junta's actions "contain signs of a state crime."

Mr. Gorbachev's whereabouts and

health had been the subject of widespread discussion since Communist hardliners began their coup Monday, saying he could not govern because of health problems.

The president's statement credited his backers with overturning the coup plotters.

"They all denounced the attempted state coup, which was prevented as a result of decisive actions of the democratic forces of the country," the statement said.

Word of Mr. Gorbachev's return came from Lev Y. Sukhanov, a long-time Yeltsin deputy. He said Mr. Gorbachev was flying from his vacation retreat in the Crimea to the Soviet capital with Vladimir Ivashko, the deputy general-secretary of the Communist Party and other aides.

U.S. President George Bush said that Mr. Gorbachev was once again in charge of the Soviet government, having been told so by the Soviet leader in a telephone call.

Mr. Bush said Mr. Gorbachev was "calling the shots."

The news of the coup leaders' departure — and Mr. Gorbachev's planned return — followed a series of rapid developments pointing to the disintegration of the takeover, one of the most tumultuous events in recent Soviet history.



Boris Yeltsin

TASS reported that the Soviet defense ministry decided to withdraw the hundreds of tanks and troops that had poured into Moscow to enforce emergency decrees after the takeover Monday.

Tanks and armoured personnel carriers were seen moving away from the Russian parliament. A four-kilometre-long column of about 180 tanks and 60 trucks was heading out of Moscow, kicking up huge clouds of

dust. The soldiers on board said they were returning to their base.

In Brussels, NATO chief Manfred Woerner, who spoke with Mr. Yeltsin by telephone, said the Russian president had taken over the powers of the armed forces chief in Mr. Gorbachev's absence.

Radio and television broadcasts that were banned during the takeover reappeared on the air, and TASS said a decree shutting independent publications was being lifted as of Wednesday.

Even before the announcement that the ban was being lifted, state-run media dropped the previous official line on the takeover and began reporting the unfolding events.

An announcer on Soviet television broke into a broad smile after reading a report calling the coup leaders dangerous. "I'm sorry comrades, but I'm very excited," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev's foreign minister, Alexander Bessmertnykh, who had dropped out of sight during the coup, reappeared and called the takeover a report in Soviet history that "has got to be turned."

At a news conference, he promised that reforms would continue and that Moscow would honour its international commitments.

Thousands of people had kept up

their vigil at the Russian parliament building following overnight clashes with Soviet troops that left at least four dead. They cheered their approval when the announcement of the coup committee's departure came over a loudspeaker.

Four of them were killed overnight during clashes with Soviet troops.

The plane reportedly carrying the coup leaders heading to Bishkek, formerly called Frunze, according to Radio Russia, which speaks for Mr. Yeltsin. There was no word on why the coup leaders would travel to the capital of Kirgizia, 3,380 kilometres southeast of Moscow in Central Asia.

Sources at the airport told the Associated Press that only KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov was on a plane, which they said was headed to the Crimea. He reportedly was accompanied by Communist Party leader Vladimir Ivashko.

The discrepancies could not immediately be clarified.

A delegation of European ambassadors and top diplomats, including the U.S. charge d'affaires, had assembled at a Moscow airport in hope of flying to the Crimea to meet with Mr. Gorbachev.

Failure of the coup could deal a fatal blow to any organised, high-level effort to thwart reform drives.

Despite the show of force, the coup leaders had been unable to dislodge Mr. Yeltsin from the Russian parliament, where he rallied the opposition. Neither were they able to enforce the curfew or prevent nationwide demonstrations.

The state of emergency was declared Monday after hardline elements in the military and Communist Party ousted Mr. Gorbachev, declaring he was ill. Few believed it.

On Tuesday, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated against the coup in Moscow, Leningrad, Khabarovsk and other cities; and coal miners went on strike in Siberia.

The Soviet embassy in London was one of the first to announce the coup had failed and the state of emergency declared on Monday had been lifted. "The people proved to be the real masters of their own destiny," an embassy official told the Press Association news agency.

As events unfolded rapidly in the Soviet capital, Western leaders who had called for Mr. Gorbachev to be restored to power voiced optimism.

The leaders of the coup "underestimated the power of the people, underestimated what a taste of freedom and democracy brings," Mr.

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Britain might build a 'Stealth' fighter

LONDON (R) — Work on a British "Stealth" warplane to replace Harrier jump jets and Tornados fighters and bombers might begin within five years, Jane's Defence Weekly reported Wednesday. The authoritative magazine said the project would be the "logical and appropriate" outcome of a British "stealth" study conducted by the Ministry of Defence.

Saudi prince robbed in luxury hotel

LONDON (AP) — Police were searching Wednesday for three men who burst into a Saudi prince's luxury hotel room and stole tens of thousands of pounds worth of jewelry, cash and gold. The prince, Prince Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, was in the hotel when the robbery took place. British news reports said, Scotland Yard said he was held at security guards' gunpoint after he entered the hotel. Prince Fahd's suite occupied by Prince Mansour bin Abdul Aziz and his entourage. A substantial amount of cash and jewelry were stolen from the prince, who was in the hotel. A Saudi spokeswoman said the prince and one of his sons were held up and a third son was killed before the gang was unseated. British news reports said the prince was in the hotel when the robbery took place.

Jordan absorbs SPLA deserters into army

HARTOUM (R) — A senior Sudanese army officer said in a statement published Wednesday 25 deserters from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have been absorbed into the Sudanese army. Major-General Hamed Mohamed Hassan, the army commander in the southern region, said the deserters had received a bonus of 10,000 pounds. Gen. Hassan's remarks are the first official indication that the rebel army is being absorbed into the Sudanese army. He said the deserters had been in the Sudan since 1976. He gave no indication of when the 125 deserters were absorbed.

Drugged couple freed in India

KANPUR, India (R) — Kashmiri couple freed in India after being held for two months after he was charged in exchange for six of his colleagues, a government spokesman said. K. Doraiswami, abducted at gunpoint on Aug. 28 outside Srinagar, was held in a militant camp. He was freed after the militant charged in the capture of three people was freed.

Shamir hopeful peace conference in October

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said after the Soviet coup collapsed Wednesday that he now hoped a superpower-sponsored Middle East peace conference would take place in October as planned.

Asked if the conference could take place on time despite the uncertainty in the Soviet Union, Mr. Shamir told reporters: "It's hard to say at the moment. They have a lot to do today but I hope it will come."

Mr. Shamir, in his first remarks on the three-day coup, said: "It's hard to say at this moment what will happen in the Soviet Union in the coming days. I hope that new obstacles won't crop up. I don't want to speculate. I hope the Soviet Union will fulfil a positive and helpful role."

U.S. President George Bush said Tuesday the peace conference was in doubt after the temporary ousting of President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet Union is due to co-sponsor the meeting.

Israeli army radio reported Wednesday that Secretary of State James Baker had sent Mr. Shamir a telegram saying he would continue working for Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In Tunisia, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said the October peace conference was now "in doubt" because of the turmoil in the Soviet Union.

The coup that toppled President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday and the ensuing confusion and violence in the Soviet Union are "of a nature to put in question the preparations in progress for the peace process in the Middle East," said Abbas Zaki, a member of the central committee of

Fateh. "The situation is now suspended in the Middle East and consequently the peace process could be revised due to the changes in the Soviet Union," Mr. Zaki told reporters.

In Egypt, another senior PLO official Wednesday ruled out compromise on the organisation's position on East Jerusalem Palestinians.

"Palestinians from East Jerusalem must participate in peace negotiations," said Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee. "There can be no concession on this."

Israel has agreed to participate in peace talks on condition that the Palestinian delegation include no PLO members or residents of East Jerusalem.

Mr. Abbas, spoke to reporters after conferring with Egypt's foreign minister, Amr Musa. Other Palestinian officials took a similar line in recent weeks, but Mr. Abbas stated the PLO position more forcefully.

Despite its displeasure with the PLO's support of Iraq, Egypt is coordinating with the organisation on the proposed peace conference.

Mr. Abbas has been the PLO's principal interlocutor with Egypt since the Gulf war ended last February. President Hosni Mubarak has made clear in public statements that Mr. Arafat is unwelcome in Cairo.

"No one can ask for more concessions from the Palestinians on essential issues such as Jerusalem... but I advise (them) to put the onus of rejection on Shamir," Mr. Mubarak told the Egyptian magazine Al-Masrawy.

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U.N. chemical inspector says Iraq cooperative

BAGHDAD (R) — A team of U.N. experts wrapped up an inspection tour of Iraqi chemical weapons sites Wednesday saying Iraq had cooperated fully and was working out ways of destroying its bombs and warheads.

Team leader Jean Paul Perot of France attributed Iraqi helpfulness to an urgent need for permission to resume production of chemicals such as chlorine, which is used for water purification as well as weapons-making.

"They gave us many plans, much information and they have very good cooperation with the inspection team," he told reporters.

The Security Council has linked a full lifting of a year-old U.N. trade blockade to compliance with its Gulf war ceasefire terms, which include declaring and scrapping all weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Perot and his 21-member team, which leaves Thursday, saw 6,420 small rockets with chemical warheads and 200 mustard gas bombs during their six-day visit.

He said they had found no inconsistencies between Iraq's declarations and what they had seen.

Mr. Perot said Iraq had asked for permission to turn chemical weapons production plants into arms destruction plants.

"They are working out ways of destroying the ammunition. They have asked us to use the installations not destroyed during the war for this," he told reporters Tuesday.

"I believe they have entered a phase where they are applying the resolution," he said. "We

found nothing that was camouflaged during our inspections."

Mr. Perot, whose inspections included production and storage sites, said Iraq was keen to put the issue of its chemical weapons programme behind it because it urgently needed to reopen chemical plants for civilian needs.

"I think the Iraqis have a large need for chemical products such as chlorine, pesticides and insecticides," he said.

The team inspected sites near Habaniya airport, 70 kilometres west of Baghdad, and the town of Samarra, 60 kilometres to the north of Habaniya.

Mr. Perot described one storage site at Mutana near Samarra as a chemical dustbin.

The heat of the Iraqi summer and impurities in the chemicals used in the warheads meant they were unstable and possibly difficult to handle.

Mr. Perot said another team of chemical inspectors would arrive in Iraq at the end of August to continue preparations for the destruction of the weapons.

Their job would include assessing the safest way to handle the warheads, which will be destroyed by Iraqis under U.N. supervision. Future teams will also inspect other storage sites.

U.N. teams visiting Iraq to inspect its germ warfare and missile capabilities have also described officials as cooperative.

The latest team looking for evidence of a nuclear weapons programme said Iraqi officials allowed them to see whatever sites they wanted but could be quicker in giving full answers to questions.

Developments in USSR purely internal Soviet affair — Ensour

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The foreign minister, Dr. Abdullah Ensour, said Wednesday that what is happening in the Soviet Union is a purely internal affair for the Soviet people to deal with, but that according to information available to the government Moscow is still committed to co-sponsoring the Middle East peace conference convoked for October.

"We look at the developments there as a purely internal affair and naturally our reaction stops at that," Dr. Ensour said.

"From information that we have, however, Moscow is still committed to holding the conference as planned."

In an interview with the Jordan Times on Wednesday morning, (before reports said the Soviet coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev had fizzled out), the foreign minister stressed that conclusive predictions could not be made before things became clearer on the situation in the Soviet Union and its relationship with the co-sponsor of the peace conference, the United States.

"There could be a freeze on relations between the two co-sponsors and member that all the proposals were made (on the understanding) that there will be two sponsors for the conference," Dr. Ensour said.

"If one of the two sponsors is not interested, or is busy or is probably playing against (the other) that will of course affect the situation."

In answer to a question on the results of his Majesty King Hussein's visit to Syria and his talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Dr. Ensour said that the two leaders "discussed, with more detail, the peace conference: Not only the principle but the operation itself, what, how, when, through whom and what kind of pooling of common (Arab) efforts."

Dr. Ensour confirmed that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected in Amman early next week and said he expected that there would be "substance" in talks between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

"I don't know what Chairman Arafat will carry in his briefcase. It is left to him to propose or to refrain from proposing plans of action. I am sure that he has something to say, to announce or to ask," Dr. Ensour said.

Following is the full text of the interview with the foreign minister:

Q: What is Jordan's feeling on Soviet changes and would Jordan prefer a status quo?

A: We have no preferences as far as the situation in the Soviet Union. We look at the developments there as a purely internal affair and naturally our reaction stops at that. What we would like to see is the stability and the security of the region and we hope that the Soviet Union will find a solution for what is going on and a very fast one... any extreme developments would result in repercussions that we do not want to see in terms of conflict and dash.

Q: Is Jordan worried that this

change of government (in the Soviet Union) would affect the peace process and in what way?

A: We don't think this will affect the peace process. The change in government there does not have its origins in the Middle East. The Middle East was not (a contributing) part of the decision-making on the change of government. So we think the peace conference that has been proposed will continue and I don't think that a change is coming.

Q: Is there concern that perhaps this might shift the focus away from the Middle East or delay the holding of the conference? Washington, who has not recognised the existing Soviet government. How could they co-sponsor a conference under such circumstances?

A: That is possible. That is very possible. As a matter of fact there were signals from Washington that the American administration is (keen) to see the conference held on schedule. We did not hear from the new administration in the Soviet Union but we heard over the news that there were assurances that there is no change of policy as to the conference on the part of the Soviets. How good the news is, I am not very sure. As I said our sources were non-Soviet, they were from other parts of the world.

Q: Is there any concern that the new Soviet leadership would try to change the parameters (for holding the conference)?

A: There could be freezing in relations between the two co-sponsors.

Q: Remember that all the proposals were made (on the understanding) that there will be two sponsors. If one is not interested or is busy or is probably playing against (the other)... that of course will affect the situation. From information that we have, however, Moscow appears to be still committed to holding the conference as planned. But that will be left to the coming days to see how.

Q: On the King's visit to Syria, what were the points that Jordan and Syria agreed upon regarding the peace process?

A: This is not the first contact (between Jordan and Syria) on the peace process. We have always been in contact over the phone and there were direct meetings between the two leaders. At these meetings the two leaders talked about the principles, the possibility of attending, the acceptance (of the peace proposal). But now that Syria has accepted (the American proposal) and that the Palestinians are on their way to making their own decisions, it is natural that the two leaders had discussed with more detail the peace process itself. That is to say not only the principle but the operation itself: What, how, when, through whom and what kind of pooling of the common (Arab) efforts. The most important result is that they have asked the two ministries of foreign affairs to have a hotline between them and to meet as the need necessitates and this will take place.

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Mubarak wants qualified lifting of Iraq sanctions

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak, chief among Arab leaders aligned against Iraq in the Gulf crisis, now wants economic sanctions against Iraq lifted for the good of the Iraqi people.

But he said in remarks published Wednesday that the move should come only after world leaders devise checks on Iraq's "ambitions."

The interview with the state-owned magazine Al-Masrawy reflected a turnaround in Mr. Mubarak's support for sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August last year.

Sanctions were maintained even after a U.S.-led international military coalition drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February.

While proposing removal of sanctions to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people, Mr. Mubarak stood by his refusal to do business with President Saddam Hussein.

"How can I deal with him after he stabbed me in the back?" Mr. Mubarak asked. "He promised me not to attack Kuwait and he did."

"But we strongly sympathise with the Iraqi people in their present ordeal resulting from the miscalculations of their leadership."

Iraqi officials say shortages of

food and other commodities caused by sanctions have killed thousands of Iraqi civilians since the war ended.

Egypt feels obligated to help the Iraqis, Mr. Mubarak said.

"We are striving to ease the impact of economic sanctions on the Iraqi people. We are for the lifting of these sanctions," he said.

"It would not be difficult for the world community to agree on adequate guarantees that would prevent the squandering of Iraq's resources on projects which serve only the ambitions of its leader."

Mr. Mubarak said his concern for the welfare of the Iraqi people also was behind his opposition to suggestions that the United States and other Western allies mount air strikes to destroy Iraq's nuclear facilities.

He said he conveyed this position to President George Bush through Secretary of State James Baker on the secretary's visit to Egypt last month during a Middle East tour.

Mr. Mubarak said all Egyptian troops in Kuwait will be back home by the end of this month.

Iraq asked the Arab League's top official Tuesday to help end the international economic sanctions.

Labour Ministry measures to help ease unemployment

AMMAN (Fotna) — In line with the national efforts to deal with problems resulting from the return to Jordan of thousands of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates, the Labour Ministry Wednesday announced further measures to help substitute foreign workers with returnees and partly deal with the unemployment issue.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi issued instructions to all municipal and village councils to employ Jordanians only and warned bakeries that they would be held responsible for any labour law violations concerning the employment of non-Jordanians.

The minister said that non-Jordanians found working with no proper work permits would be immediately ordered to leave the country.

The minister, who was addressing a meeting of heads of employment offices in the country, said that foreign truck drivers

employed by various transportation companies and businesses will have to leave and make way for Jordanian drivers.

The termination of the non-Jordanian drivers' employment followed numerous complaints by Jordanian drivers who are seeking jobs, said the minister.

Many of the companies employing non-Jordanian drivers have already complied and laid them off and the ministry has already ordered the departure of 912 such drivers.

Concerning workers in farms growing tobacco, the minister said they were employed according to law, but those with no work permits would be ordered to leave the country.

The minister said he had instructed directors of employment offices in Jordan to consider any grievances or complaints raised by the job-seekers or businesses to ease the pressure on the ministry.



Remains of truck that crashed into house at Wadi Seer. The death toll from that accident climbed to nine as three pulled from the wreck died in the hospital.

Death toll of Wadi Seer road accident rises to nine

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The three people seriously injured in a road accident at Wadi Seer Tuesday evening died in the hospital, raising the number of dead to nine.

The accident involved a truck with an Iraqi licence plate which overturned and hit a home in town of Wadi Seer, killing people inside the house and some nearby. The driver, an Iraqi, was not among those killed or injured.

Rescuers had pulled at least three injured people from the house and rushed them to a hospital. CDD officials had said they were seriously injured.

Two of those three died Tuesday evening and one early Wednesday, according to an informed source at King Hussein Medical City, where they had been taken for care.

The driver, Kathem Abu Jawad, 30, told CDD officials that he was unable to control the vehicle when he found that the brakes were faulty.

The truck, a semi-trailer, carried furniture owned by a Jordanian returning from the Gulf region.

Police said that the truck carried 27 tonnes of furniture, far in excess of its normal load capacity.

At least four cars parked nearby were crushed by the truck whose contents were strewn along a wide area as it sped out of control down the hill before hitting the house and the side of the hill, the CDD officials said.

Rescuers had pulled at least three injured people from the house and rushed them to a hospital. CDD officials had said they were seriously injured.

Doctors delegation describes Iraqi living conditions as 'appalling'

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of the Belgium-based Doctors of the Third World returned to Amman Wednesday after a three-day visit to Iraq on a fact finding mission and described living conditions of the Iraqi people as "appalling."

The Harvard University team includes more than 40 leading physicians, lawyers, engineers, economists and psychologists who plan to carry out studies in the coming two weeks.

This experts plan to carry out the following studies:

— The physicians will take 32 specially trained Jordanian health workers to conduct what could be a groundbreaking survey of the effect of the Gulf crisis on Iraqi children. The study will include a door-to-door mortality and nutritional survey of 8,400 homes throughout Iraq.

— A survey of Iraq's infrastructure, including the electrical, water, and sewage systems, to gather the latest information on the impact of the allied bombing campaign on public health.

— A continuation of the legal analysis of the war to determine if the allied bombing was conducted in accordance with international law.

— A psychological study of the effects of the war on Iraqi children, led by a former director of UNICEF.

— A hospital study to assess the capability of the health care system to meet the needs of the civilian population.

Leaders of the study hope their information will help the United Nations determine where humanitarian relief is most needed.

"If terms of its size and scope, this study will be unprecedented for a country that is still recovering from such a devastating conflict," said Dr. Megan Passey, a Harvard University doctor who is leading the public health study.

"If it works, it should yield scientifically valid data on the effect of the Gulf crisis on the mortality and nutritional status of young children and on the broader civilian population," Mrs. Passey said. "This information could greatly assist relief efforts."

The original Harvard study team visited Iraq in April and May and projected that 170,000 children under the age of five would die from the economic embargo and the delayed effects of the allied bombing campaign. That report received wide international attention and was made an official document of the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

"We would like nothing more than to discover that our dire prediction has not come true," said Roger Normand, a member of the Harvard Rights Programme and the trip organizer.

"Unfortunately, we are compelled to do a second study because reports continue to come out of Iraq of widespread malnutrition and death among young children," Mr. Normand said.

Workers end strike after government intervenes

By Issam Qadamani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A one-day strike by workers employed by the paper and cardboard companies in Zarqa ended Wednesday after personal intervention by Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi and after the workers understood that their action was illegal.

According to the Labour Law, workers should suspend any strike action if an arbitration committee has been appointed to end the dispute. Despite the presence of such a committee, led by Samir Fakhouri, the workers at Zarqa went ahead with their illegal action.

Mr. Fakhouri and his team



Abdul Karim Al Dughmi

are now expected to meet with representatives of the workers and the employers in a bid to settle the dispute.

The workers are demanding a pay rise of JD 20 a month and an additional increase of JD 15 for night shift workers, an increase of JD 10 over the previous salary. Workers are asking for the establishment of a health scheme for the workers' families or the payment of JD 25 a month if no such programme is possible.

Furthermore, the workers are demanding two months a year as sickness leave and the cancellation of warnings earlier served to some of the workers.

Officials at the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions said that the strike, which was in contravention of Article 104 of the Labour Law, was a result of the workers' ignorance of the law and regulations.

Water service cutoff threatened to subscribers who don't settle accounts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Wednesday served notice to subscribers that it would have to resort to very stringent measures in ten days if there was a continued delay in payment of bills for water consumption.

The ministry in Amman and all its departments in the various governorates will cut off water supplies to households that have failed to pay dues in the past months and years, and will remove the water meters until all the accounts have been settled, according to an announcement made by the ministry's secretary general, Mutazz Al Bilbeisi.

Subscribers have an accumulative debt of nearly JD 8 million to the water development projects due to the lack of sufficient funds,



Mutazz Al Bilbeisi

He said that the money is needed to help finance the replacement of old, rusty and leaking water networks and to carry out maintenance services.

Unless clients pay their dues by Aug. 31, the ministry will resort to cutting off water supplies to

those who have failed to pay their dues, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Also, not only will these subscribers have to settle all their accounts, but they will also have to pay a fine to the Water Authority to have their water service restored afterwards, Mr. Bilbeisi added.

In December 1990, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation issued similar notifications to its subscribers, who included households and government departments.

Mr. Bilbeisi said that the ministry has given ample time for subscribers to pay their dues and many of them have already responded but some still fail to pay their bills.

Mr. Bilbeisi called on all citizens to pay their dues to help the ministry offer better services.

Jordanian national environment strategy completed, official says

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian national environment strategy has been completed and will be revealed in detail in 10 days time, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi.

He told a press conference at his office that the strategy is considered a milestone in Jordan's drive to protect its environment from pollution.

The strategy has been prepared in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and with financial help from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Preparations are underway for the official declaration of the strategy prior to putting its various articles into force, the minister said.

Mr. Zoubi told the press that the strategy covers eight areas: surface and underground water, agricultural land, wildlife reserves, coastal areas and marine wealth, population and settlements, the atmosphere and air, energy and minerals and antiquities and culture. The strategy will be implemented by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment in cooperation with other government departments and organisations, the minister said.

Mr. Zoubi said that in the coming month he will take part in an Arab ministerial conference to discuss the environment. He will submit a working paper dealing with environmental problems in the Arab World, he said.

The meeting, to be held in Cairo, will deal with topics that would be on the agenda of an international environment conference due to be held in Brazil next year.

Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani told the press conference that work on the strategy started in 1989 and a total of 172 specialists were involved in drawing up its articles.

Constituency formation: A process of political coalition-building

This is the second article of a four-part series on the establishment of political parties in Jordan as part of its ongoing democratisation movement. In this article, the writer discusses the process of constituency-building encountered by leftist, centrist and rightist parties.

By Mariam M. Shabla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the Jordanian Parliament prepares itself to discuss a draft law on the legislation of political parties in the Kingdom, parties and political alliances are mushrooming across the country.

Working in both heavily populated urban centres as well as the rural and tribal areas, political groupings, some 40 of which are preparing to apply for legislation, are sponsoring political debates all over Jordan.

Members of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Coalition (JANDA) — a coalition of 3 centrist, leftist and nationalist parties — and the Muslim Brotherhood have been the two blocs of political groups that have led mass rallies and meetings since parliamentary elections were held here in November 1989.

But as democracy slowly creeps into the Jordanian conscience, more parties and groupings are springing up, hoping to attract many citizens that have never been involved in politics.

Political observers believe that the leftist coalition JANDA could have up to 20,000 semi-active followers in the Kingdom. The number is considered large because scrutiny of political activities on the left side of the political spectrum was particularly harsh during the years now known by some political activists as "The Years of Repression," from 1957 to 1989.

There are about 9 deputies in Parliament which are members of JANDA. In addition, the coalition was recently given five seats in the cabinet of Prime Minister Tashir Masi.

In Jordan, as in most countries, the leftist parties champion the causes of the poor and underprivileged. Many leftist leaders believe that despite the strength of Islamic politics in Jordan, in the long term the class issues will draw greater support than salvation by religious politics.

The Muslim Brotherhood, Jordan's most powerful Islamic party, which holds 23 of the Lower House's 80 seats, continues to call for the imposition of Islamic law.

"Islamic law," says Ahmad Obeid Al Azzideh, a Lower House deputy and the group's spokesman in Parliament, "is what all Muslims want and the role of the majority is democracy."

"We will never use illegal ways or rock the boat. We are determined to work through democratic means to establish democratic rule," Mr. Azzideh told the Jordan Times in an interview.

While the popular following of both JANDA and the Islamic parties have been active since the long awaited Parliamentary elections of 1989 did place, the "silent majority" has yet to get involved in the country's new found political life.

More conservative and right centrist parties are slowly bringing up among the business-oriented bourgeois and the more traditional Jordanians from the east and west



Abdul Hadi Al Majali

banks of the river. While few party formations have been announced during the last two years, at least one conservative party has already been formed and announced a platform.

The Al-Ahd Party, headed by retired Brigadier General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, is expected to be among the leading conservative parties in the Kingdom. It has been dubbed by many opponents as a Jordanian Likud, in reference to the Israeli right wing nationalist party. Mr. Majali dismisses the reference as "silly."

The retired brigadier general says that the Al-Ahd is simply a party that is primarily concerned with Jordan rather than being a primarily pan-Arab party that relegates Jordanian domestic issues as secondary.

According to Mr. Majali, Jordanian issues include everything that pertains to Jordanian domestic policies. The Al-Ahd will preside over a general conference scheduled for early September in which "70 prominent personalities" will study how a conservative coalition of groups, parties and individuals will unite to present their platform to the Jordanian public.

Mr. Majali denies claims by critics that the party or the conservative coalition will be elitist.

"We intend to appeal to the masses. Our target group are those which are neither leftist nor particularly religious," Mr. Majali said.

"We are a secular party," he continued, "and our interests lay in developing the local economy and strengthening the country's infrastructure — that should interest all citizens."

While the conservatives have no defined coalition bloc in Parliament, Mr. Majali said that the party had been in touch with a number of deputies and that the formation of a conservative bloc of members of parliament who would be politically close to the Al-Ahd Party and the future conservative coalition was already in the process of being formed.

It announced formation, however, could take some time, Mr. Majali said.

Council of Ministers appoints delegations to represent Jordan in various meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation led by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi will take part in a regional ministerial conference due to open in Cairo on Sept. 10, according to a decision by the Council of Ministers.

The meeting, which will be attended by Arab ministers responsible for the environment, will discuss participation by Arab countries in an International Conference in the Environment, which is scheduled to be held in Brazil in 1992.

According to a statement, the

Council of Ministers set up a Jordanian delegation to attend the third meeting of a joint Syrian-Jordanian Committee on Public Works and Housing, which is to be held in Damascus on Sept. 7. The council delegated Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Saeed to lead that delegation.

The cabinet also set up a delegation led by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb to Tehran on Aug. 23 for discussions designed to stimulate economic and trade exchanges between Jordan and Iran. It said

that the delegation to Tehran will include representatives of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Free Zones Corporation, the Jordanian Engineers Association, the Jordanian Contractors Association, the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation and the Central Bank of Jordan.

The cabinet formed another delegation led Mr. Abul Ragheb to take part in the Arab League Economic and Social Council's 49th meeting, due to open in Cairo on Sept. 1.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Co. Invites

Contractors to participate in tender No. 4/91 for the supply of a number of truck tractors and semi-trailers as per technical specifications attached with terms of tender.

Contractors wishing to bid for tender can obtain copies of tender documents from the company in Jabal Al Hussein - behind Ministry of Health — opposite Al Fadel Bin Abbas Mosque - Amman for non-refundable fee of JD 160,000 (one hundred and sixty Jordan dinars) per copy, bearing official documents proving their registration in records of trading agents.

Offers should be submitted and deposited in tender box of company not later than 2.30 p.m. (local summer time) on Sunday, September 22nd, 1991.

Chairman/General-Manager
Hisham Asfour

IRAQI JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT CO.

Tender No. 7/91
Sale Of Used Semi-Trailer

Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Company intends to sell (236) used semi-trailers of Krone and Nootebome types manufactured in 1981-1982.

Related Information:

1. Custom duties unpaid.
2. Offers can be submitted to buy one, or all.
3. Semi-trailers can be checked and inspected at the company's garages in Aqaba, Jordan, starting August 21, 1991,
4. Copies of terms, conditions, and technical specifications can be bought for the sum of (100) Jordanian dinars (JD), non-refundable, from the company's main offices in Amman between 4th and 5th Circles, Jabal Amman, during official working hours (0800-1430) starting 21/8/1991.
5. Closing date for submitting offers 21/9/1991 (1200 hrs).

Dr. Shaker Mahadin
Director General

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141/4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Lessons from putsch

THE TASTE of democracy and freedom must be credited first and foremost for the failure of Monday's putsch in Moscow which purported to reverse the course in the Soviet Union ushered in by Mikhail Gorbachev. In retrospect the Soviet coup leaders were troubled by the apparent disintegration of their "super power" and the inability of the reformist era to deliver on the promises to bring prosperity and full democracy to the Soviet people. They had acted in desperation thinking that the only way to arrest the rapid decline in the stature and strength of their homeland was to revert to the old and traditional ways.

Yet once the genie was out of the bottle there was obviously no effective way to put it back again. Whatever malaise still exists within the USSR, that big and powerful country needed a speedier leap into full democracy rather than reversion to undemocratic ways. The hesitation exercised by Gorbachev in the direction of the enjoyment of full democracy must have contributed to his temporary downfall and even probably eventual eclipse as a viable Soviet leader. His reinstatement as president by the Soviet Parliament Wednesday provides him with yet another opportunity to deliver on his long-standing pledge to move his country at full speed ahead into a nation where full and complete civil and political rights can be exercised.

The moral of this latest story for those Arabs who saluted Monday's coup and saw in it an opportunity to neutralize Washington's monopoly on international power is that democracy is still the only continuing way of life for mankind and that there is no effective and lasting way to reverse its march forward. Secondly, no matter how deep the Arab World's grievances are with the Western countries, notably the U.S. (and they are plenty and genuine), the real answer to such legitimate concerns does not lie in entertaining false hopes in other countries, be they large or small, but rather rests with them alone and the introduction of democracy to their own ranks as fast as possible. The Arab countries can never be as strong as they can be and relevant to international events unless they are also democratic and free. Gone are the days when the Arab woes and difficulties can be addressed by others, whoever these others may be. This is perhaps the principal message of and the most important lesson from the last few days' dramatic development in the Soviet Union.

The past three days have been a short period of time in this world's long history. But in them there are many lessons to be learned. The Arab World in particular will do well not only to digest the historic experience but also to draw the right conclusions from it. There should be some soul searching for us Arabs to do in the coming weeks and months, and we should do it promptly and thoroughly.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Wednesday accused the Western countries of interfering in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union which had decided to remove a man who proved incapable of shouldering his duties. The U.S.-led Western alliance is now launching a propaganda attack on the Moscow leadership, trying to reinstate their man in the Kremlin, the paper noted. The Soviet Union, the paper stressed, is not a Western colony but a superpower whose people have decided to move and put an end to a humiliating situation into which Mr. Gorbachev has placed his country, the paper noted. The Western nations are particularly appalled by the removal of Mr. Gorbachev because the downfall came at a time when they had been hoping to see the removal of their arch-enemy Saddam Hussein from power; a man who has led the Arab and Islamic nations against the expansionist designs and monopolies of the West, the paper added. It said that the West is faced with a dilemma now, after failing through their aggression on Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein, because they saw their own man removed. The Western countries should stop interfering in other countries' affairs and should not consider the internal affairs of the Soviet Union as their own business, the paper advised. It said that the change in the Kremlin leadership is done by the Soviet people and no one in the West can restore Mr. Gorbachev to power and no U.S. troops can see the return of the ousted leader to Moscow in a manner similar to the return of the Emir of Kuwait.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily drew the Ministry of Education's attention to the plight of students who cannot register in private schools for the new scholastic year and said this practice is illegal and calls for immediate action on the part of the ministry. Nazli said that at the start of each scholastic year private schools practice blackmail against students and their teachers in a manner that is totally incompatible with the educational process and in conflict with the concept of education in the Kingdom. The writer said that private schools refuse to register students at the beginning of the year, under the pretext that these students showed poor performance in the previous year, unless they accept to remain in the same grade for one year. These schools also resort to other sorts of threats, like giving the students difficult make-up examinations to make sure they fail, thus justifying their dismissal. But the writer said the real reason behind such underhand dealing and improper educational practice is the fact that each private school seeks to ensure that only very successful students remain in the schools so as to get high grades in the tawjihi examinations at the end of the scholastic year. Keeping only the elite of the students and dismissing the others is totally in conflict with educational ethics and contradict with the educational norms and regulations set by the Ministry of Education, said the writer. He urged the ministry to promptly interfere on behalf of these students and ensure their stay in the schools on equal footing with their colleagues.

Beware of politicians bearing gifts

By Safwan Bataineh

I SOMETIMES wonder if the scarcity of government finances hasn't been a blessing in disguise. For one thing, it has put paid to the heady expansion of a grossly inefficient and largely unproductive public sector. For another, it has stopped government from creating money gobbling projects that live off public funds rather than wits and the opportunities available in the marketplace.

Sadly, I feel no compunction when harbouring such negative thoughts. Many of these projects cannot even cover the costs of their borrowings and have to shift the burden of the debt service onto the national budget.

The perennial drain from the budget that goes to support these failed entities means that healthy private enterprises are unjustly forced to keep sickly competitors alive by handing over more of their hard earned cash in the form of higher taxes (it is beyond me how the government can talk of encouraging investment when it diverts resources from successful enterprises just to pour them down the drain of commercial failures).

Mostly, however, I am driven to these thoughts by the lack of evidence that politicians have learnt anything from past mistakes. I have yet to hear a politician of note declare publicly his unequivocal opposition to the undertaking of commercial projects by the public sector, let alone expressing reservations about extending subsidies to existing operations. In fact, the only person I know of who has consistently called for market-based solutions — incurring the wrath of the entrenched officialdom in the process — is a columnist currently confined to sick bed. Typically, his ideas went unheeded by the know-it-all bureaucracy until outsiders (in this case, the IMF and World Bank missions) imposed them on decision makers.

The government must restrict its spending to providing essential services like education, health, to building and expanding the necessary infrastructure required to accommodate economic growth, to maintaining law and order and to ensuring the defence of the nation. Beyond that, government must adopt a neutral stance vis-a-vis economic participants, especially those who are in competition with each other.

Achieving this impartiality would require the government to divest itself of and sever legal and administrative links with all commercial entities starting with those operating in the capital and money markets (like the Housing Bank, the Amman Financial Market, the Industrial Development Bank and the Agricultural Credit Corporation) and those in the export field (like the Commercial Centres Corporation and the Agricultural Marketing Company).

Moreover, all forms of subsidies offered to enterprises or potential investors to the exclusion of competitors operating in the same sector must be cut off, phased out, or not contemplated,

regardless of the financial position of the firms in question or the desirability of the potential investment (subsidies offered across a whole sector like tax incentives or reduced water and electricity charges are not the issue here).

Finally, economic neutrality requires the new generation of politically minded ministers to check their natural tendency for populist initiatives and political patronage, to become policy makers and instruments for institutional reforms in their respective ministries rather than pose as glorified bureaucrats eager to expedite routine and transactional types of business for the public (especially for members of their constituency and citizens of patrimonial persuasion).

The rationale for such a radical departure from current behaviour is simple and straightforward. Lasting economic growth depends on the economy's ability to constantly increase its production of marketable goods and services (marketable in the sense of price competitiveness, attractiveness, and acceptable quality).

This ability, in turn, depends on both the availability of clever and accurate investments and productivity increases. Investment, which encompasses investment in technological innovations and ideas as well as capital stock, can either hit the mark and produce marketable goods and services or miss entirely and produce duds.

Unfortunately, most public sector investments are of the dud producing variety because managers are often insulated from the rigors and signals of the marketplace and tend to be bereft of such qualities like ingenuity and determination that are common amongst successful private entrepreneurs. These investments create initial surges of output that are unsustainable in the long run because of inherent inefficiencies and poor business decision. Worse still, they crowd out private investments since businessmen are understandably reluctant to compete with firms owned, subsidised, or even patronised by the government.

Empirical evidence is in full view in all the tattered parts of the globe. In the socialist countries the public sector (and the only sector) has continued to produce unmarketable goods and services until enough people got fed up and brought the whole system down in tears. As for the Third World, the cherished ideal of big and patronising government kept public sector projects alive long after their practical death with continuous infusions of public funds until all the money ran out or common sense returned, whichever came first.

Constant and haphazard intervention in the private economy distorted business decisions and prevented the efficient allocation of resources, thereby ensuring that fewer accurate investments were made than would have been otherwise achieved without the government's help.

A similar story can be told starting with that other prerequisite of economic success: productivity. But I think you've got the message. However, if the government is still not convinced, then it should heed the words of His Majesty the King:

"It is time for us to support and assist the government in fulfilling its role in terms of organisation and harmony amongst the various segments of society, as we move ahead towards the progress and prosperity through creativity and production. The progress and prosperity through the private sector in the fields of public sector cannot replace the private sector in the fields of industry, tourism, commerce, agriculture and transportation, among other fields. These activities and other pertain to the private sector." (28/11/1988).

This is not to say that the government has no role to play in the management of the economy. On the contrary, investments in education and infrastructure play a critical part in increasing the productivity of labour and encouraging private investments.

Moreover, the implementation of economic policies, once these long overdue policies are actually formulated, is the exclusive domain of government. By means of such policy tools as interest rates and taxation, but not by dictates and decrees, the government can guide economic activities towards desirable paths without restricting freedom of choice for economic participants or hindering competition.

And should the government wake up one sunny morning and find excess cash in its coffers, it can use the money to reduce income taxes or to make it available for lending based on cash flow projections rather than on collateral.

Government, being neither blessed with omniscient powers nor famous for sound business decisions, should trust the instincts of its citizens as they pursue their self-interest and place their money where they think the highest returns are available. For somewhere in the midst of all this hive of activities there are successful businesses ready to burst out in a dazzling display of uninterrupted growth, pulling the whole nation with them along the road to prosperity.

To help bring out the best in Jordanians, the government should restructure the bureaucracy and redefine its role so as to support economic activities rather than generate them or, worse, obstruct them. Only then can we all look forward to the day when Jordan is no longer littered with dinosaur-like organisms which, like dinosaurs, have puny brains, voracious appetites, and are bound for extinction.

But the greatest hope must be placed upon our wise and far-sighted citizenry to tell politicians when they come around carrying a gift: no thank you, not if we have to pay dearly for it later on.

Soviet policy in the Gulf conflict

By Olga Alexandrova

IN AUGUST 1990 hardly anyone could have predicted the repercussions which the Gulf crisis — later the Gulf war — would have on the foreign and domestic policies of the indirectly involved Soviet Union. The Gulf conflict became — to a greater extent and with more serious consequences than the German question or the "loss of Eastern Europe" — a controversial issue in domestic policy discussion. The orthodox-conservative groups adopted an anti-American and pro-Iraqi stance. The Gulf conflict clearly undermined the limits to cooperation and partnership between the USSR and the West as well as to the level of acceptance of inner-Soviet interest groups, such as the military, the party apparatus and the military-industrial complex. It became obvious just how dependent the policy of "New Thinking" is on the domestic policy development.

The effects of the Gulf crisis on Soviet politics were many-sided. Viewed from the standpoint of world politics, an almost desperate struggle for the assertion of the (still existent) world power status of the Soviet Union was the real nerve of reaction to the development in the Gulf. The change in the Soviet position reflected the ambivalence and contradictory nature of both the Soviet policy towards the U.S. as well as of the USSR's foreign policy concept in general.

The domestic policy disputes over the Gulf problem were both an indicators as well as the driving force of a restorative trend, as a result of which the traditional power apparatus — the CPSU, the army and the KGB — regained influence on the Soviet leadership. The discussion about the orientation of Soviet foreign policy led, on the one hand, to a change in the foreign policy leadership, to Shevardnadze's resignation, and, on the other hand, to policy course adjustments which were not insignificant. The, in the broadest sense, military and security-related problems represented a major aspect in the discussion. It focused on a spectrum of problems ranging from the Soviet position with respect to military action against Iraq to the assessment of the level of Soviet armament.

The twin-track character of the Soviet Gulf policy

The varying nuances in the Soviet position during the Gulf conflict were highly relevant to the Soviet-American relationship. They will also remain important to its future development. It was the irony of history that, at a time when the two foreign ministers Baker and Shevardnadze were discussing the growing cooperation between the U.S. and the USSR in the settlement of regional conflicts in the Siberian city of Irkutsk on 1/2 August 1990, Iraq put the ability

of the big powers to implement this cooperative approach to the test by invading Kuwait. The resolute stance of the Soviet Union on the side of the anti-Iraqi coalition during the first few months — manifest, for example, in the joint Soviet-American declaration and the support for all 12 resolutions on the Gulf conflict passed by the United Nations Security Council — was primarily the result of personal efforts by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and his closest advisers. This position was not backed by all leading institutions and interest groups. A pro-Iraqi lobby in the foreign policy establishment had opposed this orientation since the first days of the Gulf conflict. There were already signs of a twin-track Soviet diplomacy, therefore, in August 1990. The line which was supported by Shevardnadze and which stressed cooperation with the U.S. and joint action against the aggressor was juxtaposed by a line which was oriented towards maintaining active relations with Iraq and greater dissociation towards the U.S. The leading spokesman for the latter approach was the then Presidential Council member Primakov. He was backed by the military, the military-industrial complex and the orthodox wing of the CPSU.

The "Arabists" in the Soviet Foreign Ministry already tried to oppose an unambiguous condemnation of Iraq in the preparatory stages of the joint Soviet-American declaration on Aug. 3, 1990, presenting a diluted and mildly worded draft which the American side rejected. In addition to the diplomatic contacts with the anti-Iraqi coalition, the decision was also taken at that time to send a "personal envoy" of the president of the USSR to Baghdad. Initially, Mr. Shevardnadze wanted to undertake this mission himself; Mr. Primakov, as the representative of the Iraq-friendly policy, however, was able to prevent this. It became particularly clear that Mr. Primakov and Mr. Shevardnadze were pursuing different goals in Oct. and Nov. 1990. As the U.N. Security Council turned its attention towards elaborating Resolution 678, which provided for the use of all (i.e. also military) means to the liberation of Kuwait, Mr. Primakov declared in a TV interview that he objected to the admissibility of a military option. Instead, the considerations on Iraq's claims vis-a-vis Kuwait and on the solution of the Palestinian problem should (as Saddam Hussein suggested) be presented in a package which allowed the Iraqi leader "to save face." The adoption of Resolution 678 was the final success of Mr. Shevardnadze's active diplomacy before he resigned as foreign minister three weeks later. The criticism levelled against his policy on the Gulf was allegedly a significant factor. The subsequent Soviet Gulf diplomacy was marked by a long silence.

Following Mr. Shevardnadze's resignation the polemics against his Gulf policy were expressed publicly. His successor at a later stage, Alexander Bessmertnykh, who was ambassador in Washington at the time, is reported to have endorsed this criticism. The former First Deputy Foreign Minister Kornienko accused Mr. Shevardnadze of amateurism. In particular, the Soviet vote for Resolution 678 was heavily criticised. Some Soviet diplomats and the military raised the question whether it might not have been better for the country to abstain. In January 1991 a draft circulated in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for a resolution advocating the revocation of the Soviet signature beneath the U.N. Resolutions of sanctions against Iraq. During the final phase of the Gulf war Mr. Primakov's line, which was aimed at ensuring Saddam Hussein's survival, gained the upper hand once and for all. For the sake of this objective, Mr. Gorbachev was willing to accept a cooling down of relations with Washington.

Objections against a coalition with the U.S.

The "Arabists" in the Foreign Ministry and in the CPSU Central Committee were not the only ones dissatisfied with Mr. Shevardnadze's anti-Iraqi stance.

"Critics of the Soviet policy in the Gulf took the opinion that supporting the anti-Iraqi coalition was extremely detrimental in terms of power politics. The Soviet Union was running the risk of losing its role as a major power and thus its influence in the Third World."

The reasons for the rapidly developing domestic policy controversy were more deeply rooted. The very idea of closer cooperation with the U.S. was and is alien and suspect to the Soviet military, the orthodox communists and the nationalist groups with anti-Western leanings. As regards the Middle East, Mr. Shevardnadze's willingness to cooperate not only meant the betrayal of a "long-standing friend" in the eyes of his critics, but also and above all the abandonment of strategically important terrain in this region to the U.S.

Warnings could already be heard in Moscow during the first few days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that Washington was seriously planning a longer-term military presence in the Gulf region with the aim of substantially upsetting the balance of power in its favour in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. The objections of the pro-Iraqi lobby against a new political orientation were summed up as follows by the deputy director of the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies at the

Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Naumkin: "We are groping in the dark in the Middle East. We have dropped the old policy [whether good or bad ...], but we have not elaborated a new one. Surely it is clear that the vote in the U.N. 'for' the use of force against Iraq is not going to win as public opinion in the Arab World? There is a tremendous to-ing and fro-ing in the choice of partners. Our country cannot survive without the Arabs. Here is the market, here is the money!"

Security policy arguments against a cooperative stance in the Gulf conflict were mainly forwarded by the military. The appreciable presence of American troops in the Gulf jeopardised the country's security. The chief of staff of the Warsaw Pact, General Lobov, claimed that the U.S. would thus be able to exert its influence on events in the Transcaucasian republics. He linked the Gulf problem with the problem of disarmament: The presence of American troops in the Middle East could lead to a breakdown of the Vienna negotiations on the reduction of conventional forces in Europe, since these additional military capacities had not been included in the agreement. The presence of American troops had drastically upset the strategic equilibrium in the region. Furthermore, there was no guarantee that the U.S.

claimed principles of "New Political Thinking" into practice.

Contradictory Soviet standpoints on military aspects

One of the still unclarified questions is the problem of the presence of Soviet military advisers in Iraq. At the beginning of the Gulf conflict Soviet diplomats refused to provide information on the extent of arms sales to Iraq and the presence of military advisers. It was not until Aug. 6, 1990 that a member of the Soviet Foreign Ministry staff referred to "about 1,000 military advisers." Later on, Mr. Shevardnadze indirectly confirmed this figure in talks with Secretary of State Baker. Representatives of the Soviet army commented on this question on Aug. 15, 1990. The first deputy head of the Principal Department of the Soviet chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Nikituk, publicly denied that there were Soviet military advisers in Iraq. There had never been any such advisers. There were merely 193 Soviet "military specialists" there, who were rendering assistance on how to handle the Soviet military technology.

Neither the euphemisms used nor the figure of only 193 "specialists" seemed plausible; according to Western estimates, there are between 500 and 1,000 Soviet military advisers in Iraq. What is more, the assertion that there had never been any Soviet military advisers in Iraq was contradicted by the Soviet side itself. Apart from such military advisers there was even a chief military adviser with his own apparatus.

The Soviets repeatedly rejected the request by the U.S. to withdraw military advisers from Iraq by maintaining that this would constitute a violation of the treaty of friendship with Iraq. President Bush was also unable at the Helsinki summit in September 1990 to persuade Mr. Gorbachev to make such a concession. During the subsequent press conference in Helsinki Mr. Gorbachev even expressed his disconcertion at this suggestion and said that he had nothing to add on this question. The Soviet government also refused to stop training Iraqi army officers in the Soviet Union. According to statements by the Soviet Defence Ministry, there were "roughly just as many Iraqi officers" in the USSR "as Soviet specialists in Iraq."

On Jan. 17, 1991 the Soviet Defence Ministry announced that the last "military specialists" had left Iraq. Although the U.S. administration tried to play down the problem of Soviet military advisers in Iraq the suspicion that they were still in the country could not be allayed. It was suspected that about 150 Soviet experts remained in Iraq even after allied military action began. They are reputed to have advised Iraqis on the maintenance of military technology and in the field of telecommunications. According to a report by the usually well-

informed French newspaper *Libération*, conversations in the Russian language were allegedly picked up on the radio frequencies of the Iraqi army at the end of January and the beginning of February 1991, which would indicate a hushed-up military involvement of the USSR in Iraq.

The Defence Ministry in Moscow insisted that such reports were "false"; claiming that they were attempts to not only cast a shadow upon Soviet policy but also "to discredit" the Iraqi armed forces, i.e. to give the impression that they were unable to offer resistance to the allied troops themselves.

The problem of the exchange of military information was closely connected with the unclarified question of military advisers. During the first few weeks of the Gulf conflict, it was claimed that the USSR was informing the U.S. about Soviet armament in Iraq. Later on, however, Soviet representatives denied all conjecture that the Americans had received confidential information on Iraq's military potential from the Soviet Union.

Reference was made to the treaty of friendship with Iraq, which forbids any passing on of classified information. There were also inconsistencies regarding the passing on of military data to Iraq.

The head of the Reconnaissance Department of the Soviet chief of staff, General Mikhailov, admitted that Iraq had asked the USSR to provide satellite reconnaissance data, but added that the Soviet side's response was a "categorical refusal."

The British and French press, on the other hand, claimed that Soviet experts had furnished Iraq with information on American satellite surveillance. This had enabled the Iraqis to remove weapon systems out of the field of observation of American reconnaissance. Furthermore, the USSR had altered the orbit of their satellites to include flights over Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi aggression in Kuwait also put Soviet politicians in an awkward position due to the fact that Iraq had primarily built up its military power with Soviet help. Up to 90 per cent of the Iraqi military potential is said to have been provided by the Soviet Union. Although the USSR stopped its arms deliveries after the invasion of Kuwait a certain amount of pressure was needed on the part of the U.S. In the Soviet draft of the joint American-Soviet declaration of Aug. 3, 1990 the call for an arms embargo was put in parentheses, which means that the Soviet side did not want it included in the final wording. Mr. Shevardnadze was only willing to do so following a meeting with Secretary of State Baker.

According to remarks by high-ranking Soviet officials, the observance of the embargo against Iraq meant substantial financial losses for the Soviet Union. (Continued on page 9)

Animals of Baghdad Zoo survived war on leftovers

By Nicholas Phyllis
Reuters

BAGHDAD — The animals of Baghdad Zoo survived the Gulf war thanks partly to scraps from the tables of the capital's hotels and restaurants.

The big cats got meat only once a week and look none the worse for it. But for Hani the lion the crisis over the Gulf war posed a more frustrating problem — it blocked plans to find him a mate.

away from the hotels," keeper Farhan Abid said of the war days.

"During the war even the lion and the tigers were given vegetables and bread," said Zoo Director Hani Hamza Mehdi.

"The bread was left over at the hotels," he said in an interview, adding that it also kept the monkeys and the ducks going.

Mr. Mehdi said the zoo dished up meat once a week for the carnivores, slaughtering donkeys bred for the purpose.

"We were afraid they might eat one another," he added, half in jest.

The zoo, in the Al-Zawra Park in central Baghdad, was a popular day out before the Gulf crisis. Five months after Iraq's defeat in the war, it is slowly returning to normal.

Families stroll from enclosure to enclosure, the children running excitedly ahead. The animals look less haggard and tatty than in the immediate aftermath of the fighting.

Peacocks preen themselves in the sunshine. The vultures, hunched on

their perches, watch the visitors with a studied indifference.

The tigers, bred from a pair brought in from Qatar in 1984, doze at the back of their cage.

The brown bear tucks into a mid-morning snack of vegetables and grapes.

"We do not have problems with the food now," Mr. Mehdi said.

Donkey is still on the menu, which is just as well with meat in the shops more than five times its pre-crisis price.

But Mr. Mehdi said the

zoo was running out of medicines because of the U.N. trade blockade imposed after the invasion of Kuwait last August.

The zoo moved to its present site in central Baghdad in 1973. There had been a small zoo elsewhere in the capital since the 1950s.

During the war, which coincided with the cold of winter, lack of power for heating took its toll on the zoo's population, wiping out the collection of tropical fish.

Other inmates did not even know there was war on. The U.S. cruise missiles

and smart bombs that obliterated Iraq's telecommunications system and smashed the nearby airport and strategic government ministries failed to wake the zoo's hedgehog.

"It was his time for hibernation," said one keeper.

Today the zoo has a mix of birds, carnivores, horses, deer, a camel and ... domestic dogs.

"It's something unusual for a zoo," Mr. Mehdi said. "Here in Iraq there are not many kinds of dogs. It's to show the people other breeds."

The zoo's oldest inhabitant is an ostrich.

The newest arrival is a puma, which some people say came from Kuwait.

Hani, a gift from Chad as a three-month-old cub, is now two years old and the only lion in Iraq.

President Saddam Hussein named him after Mr. Mehdi, who reared him by hand.

"Before Aug. 2 (1990) we had a contract to bring a lot of animals from Egypt including a mate for the lion," Mr. Mehdi said.

The zoo had built a special open-air enclosure for the

happy couple with a suite of four cages off it. The Gulf war brought plans to a halt.

Hani now pads restlessly up and down his cage in the lion house. He roars and lunges angrily at keepers and visitors — one reason why the lion house is closed to the public.

Mehdi says that Hani, who is patently bored on his own, would be ready for a mate in about six months. "Maybe with a female he would be more relaxed."

But with no sign of an early lifting of sanctions, he could be in for a long wait.

Silent Sonia Gandhi sets Delhi buzzing

By Michael Battye
Reuters

NEW DELHI — Pressure is mounting on Sonia Gandhi to step on to India's political stage, but the widow of assassinated former Premier Rajiv Gandhi is keeping the country guessing.

Her public silence has plunged India into an orgy of speculation over whether she is about to launch her own political career and what impact that might have.

She speaks rarely to journalists and those who have been in contact with her have different impressions of what she will do.

Some say Italian-born Gandhi, 44, has decided to run for Amethi, the parliamentary constituency here.

Her husband won posthumously after his assassination on May 21.

Politicians also have different ideas about her intentions. "She will go to Amethi on Aug. 20 and announce she's going to run," said one senior member of the Congress Party, which the Nehru dynasty ran for decades until Rajiv Gandhi's assassination by a woman suicide bomber.

He would have been 47 on Aug. 20.

"It's still a little uncertain, but if she does decide to run, it won't be as early as that," said another senior Congress member who was close to Rajiv Gandhi.

"She hasn't made up her mind and my impression is that she will decide against it," a long-time family friend said.

No one doubts Mrs. Gandhi would win Amethi in the critically important northern state of Uttar Pradesh, where Congress was almost wiped out in the elections that put in a new government in June.

The pressure is enormous

on her to run there. She campaigned hard for her husband in Amethi and Congress leaders said after his death they would accept no other candidate but her in the by-election, for which no date has been set.

Each day hundreds go to Mrs. Gandhi's heavily guarded New Delhi home to pay their respects.

Some urge her to take up politics so she can continue the line of prime ministers of independent India that began with Jawaharlal Nehru and was maintained with his daughter Indira Gandhi and grandson Rajiv Gandhi.

A vociferous minority in Congress organises delegations to urge her to run for parliament, promising support for a challenge to the leadership of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Some are genuine believers in continuing the dynasty. Others, say their enemies in Congress, seek to use the magic of the Gandhi name to enhance or preserve their careers.

Mrs. Gandhi is torn, friends say.

"She doesn't want to get into power politics but she wants to keep Amethi to keep the option (of entering politics) open for the children," one said.

Neither her son Rahul, 21, nor daughter Priyanka, 19, have said whether they intend to enter politics.

Priyanka's calm and poise at her father's funeral — and her physical resemblance to Indira Gandhi — aroused speculation she will.

In India, a parliamentary candidate must be 25, adding to pressure on Sonia Gandhi to keep the seat open for Priyanka.

If she does decide to run in Amethi and enters parliament, there seems to be no way she can avoid becoming



Sonia Gandhi

embroiled in the eternal Congress power struggles. The Nehru Dynasty managed to stay on top by undermining anyone who appeared a likely challenger.

"She would be a very destructive influence because she will become an alternate power centre in the party and erode Narasimha Rao's already delicate position," said independent analyst and veteran Congress watcher S. Nihal Singh.

"Anyone unhappy with Narasimha Rao would gravitate to her side," he said.

Apart from those committed to the Gandhi family, there are others unhappy with Mr. Rao as he steers India through radical economic reforms.

They grumble that Mr. Rao is throwing overboard the revered Nehru's doctrines

by opening the protected economy to the outside world and abolishing bureaucratic regulations.

"Sonia's presence in parliament could split Congress," Mr. Singh said.

Some senior Congress members agree. "It might precipitate what so many have speculated about for so long, a realignment of politics with a split in Congress and the larger part merging with other centrist forces," one said.

Others disagree.

"The assumption that she's going to have an easy ride within the party is not true," said another. "A lot of MPs don't like the idea of her in parliament and those trying to sell her as a future prime minister have put a lot of backs up."

After 5 years in royal family, 'Fergie' is still honing image

By Anne Senior
Reuters

LONDON — A new woman has appeared on Britain's royal circuit — a well-groomed, 31-year-old redhead with a trim figure and a wardrobe fit for a princess.

Could Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, be courting a mysterious older woman? Could this be a royal darling and international pin-up of the future, a rival even for the glamorous Princess Diana?

No, this is the same Sarah Ferguson who walked up the aisle with Edward's elder brother Andrew five years ago, but now minus those familiar flowing locks and re-benevolent curves.

The Duchess of York, as she became on her marriage, is trying hard to cast off her image as a full-figured "fashion frump," and is working on a slimline look combining designer elegance with a hint of sex appeal.

Her flame-red mane of hair, which Prince Andrew called her crowning glory, has been cropped into a shoulder-length bob.

Her rounded figure, which drew dozens of media taunts when it was clad in lavish creations and square-shouldered suits, is at least a size smaller now and is shown to its advantage in waisting dresses and skimpy gowns.

Newspapers and fashion-writers have mostly approved of the transformation, but some commentators are not entirely happy with what has happened to fun-loving, fresh-faced "Fergie."

"Elegant, but is it me?" asked London's local daily the Evening Standard in a full-page analysis of the new-look duchess, shown in a silk cocktail dress cut just above the knee, with a chiffon scarf thrown across bare shoulders.

The vivacious, free-spirited woman who made a pre-

wedding vow she would never diet to please the British public has given in after all. She has been "remade in the royal image," it said.

The bride-to-be was adamant she would retain her individuality and never succumb to image-makers. "I'm not going to get thin. I'm not going to change a lot," she declared in an interview before her wedding in London's Westminster Abbey in July 1986.

"I'm just going to be me," she said.

Her Edwardian-style wedding dress was a sensation. Cut to flatter an hour-glass figure, it had style writers predicting "the Fergie form" would bring curves back into fashion.

In the end, it was "Fergie" who dieted and exercised herself into a shape more like the modern stereotype of female beauty.

The Evening Standard decided the duchess was trying too hard to win public favour and wished she had held out against the notion that royal ladies come in only one size — slim.

"It is time for Fergie to start throwing her weight around against those who want the royal family to be stereotyped and uninformed," the newspaper said.

Fat or thin, it seems the duchess cannot please the media and the masses who follow every move the royal family makes.

In the five years since her marriage, the Duchess of York has gone from being a royal darling feted by the media to the most criticised female member of the royal family — an unenviable position once held by Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth's straight-talking daughter, and before that by the queen's sister Princess Margaret.

Her exuberance, which went down well in the United States during a visit with her sailor husband, seems to jar



The Duke and Duchess of York

with the tradition-bound British who expect decorum from their royals.

Now that her clothes give less cause for complaint, the duchess has been lambasted for expensive tastes, the design of her ranch-style "palace dallas" home, and for being friendly with show business personalities.

Her attempts to continue an independent career got her into trouble when it emerged that she could be pocketing some of the profits from a set of children's books she had written.

She was called a bad mother when she left her baby daughter Beatrice at home while she went on a royal business trip. But when she spent more time at home with Beatrice and her second daughter Eugenie, the duchess was accused of being work-shy.

Princess Anne, who has a son and a daughter, once

admitted she didn't like children at all. She got away with it because she is considered hard-working and devoted to duty.

Ingrid Seward, royal biographer and editor of Britain's Majesty magazine, says the duchess has been deeply hurt by the criticism, especially the charges that she spends too much time enjoying herself and is forever on holiday.

"Up until the queen's generation, royal ladies did very little. Nor were they expected to. Apart from the occasional charity engagement they lived a life of leisure befitting their position," Ms. Seward wrote in a book on the duchess.

"Because Sarah is an achiever, she is not content just to be the wife of the Duke of York," Mrs. Seward said. "Sarah's ambition is to find a niche for herself within the working scope available to members of the royal family."

Oddsson — once a humorist, now Iceland's premier

By Karin Davies
The Associated Press

REYKJAVIK — David Oddsson used to make fun of the government. Now he's the prime minister.

"I read that a radio station was taking over the post of prime minister," he said in a U.S. interview.

That was 20 years ago, so Oddsson is not joking anymore. I remember the seriousness of the situation.

In law school, Mr. Oddsson collaborated with a fellow student on such radio comedies as "I Shall Enrich My Country" a spoof of the body politicians. On his

own, he wrote Dirty White Collar, about politics, corruption and the press.

Humour remains part of the Oddsson style, but the former mayor of Reykjavik also is a determined politician learning to operate in a coalition.

"The mayor is running the show completely," Mr. Oddsson, 43, said of his former position. "This job is different, completely different, because you have the ministers here and they are all kings in their own fields."

Ingibjorg Solrun Gisladottir, an opposition city council member, said Mr. Oddsson

might have difficulty making deals.

"This is his weakness, because he is used to being aggressive and has no experience in finding a compromise," she said. Though acknowledging that his humour could be an asset.

Mr. Oddsson expressed his agreement this way: "I once heard somebody say that another politician had no sense of humour, so it was impossible to take him seriously."

After nine years as mayor, Mr. Oddsson challenged and defeated the leader of the conservative Independence Party in March and led it in

the April national election, winning 26 of 63 seats in the Althing, the world's oldest parliament.

His programme includes deregulation and market-oriented policies for fishing and agriculture to boost the moribund economy.

The previous government, led by the centrist Progressive Party, imposed austerity that kept wages and prices down and produced a trade surplus last year, but the gross national product and private consumption declined.

About 254,000 people live in this volcanic land, which brushes the Arctic circle in the North Atlantic.

Its citizens are among the world's most affluent, life expectancy is long and infant mortality almost nil. But the economy is based on a single commodity: Fish.

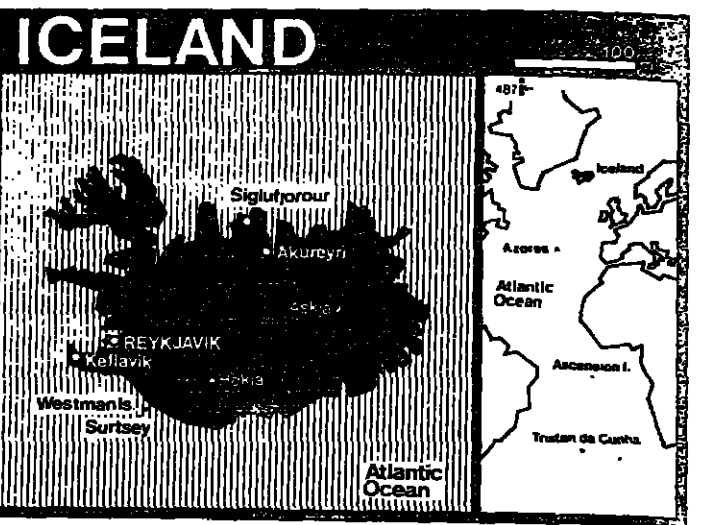
Oddsson said his greatest challenge is to diversify. Exploitation of hydro and geothermal power are at the top of his list, including a proposal to export electricity to Britain through a 950-kilometre underwater cable.

There is also talk of building a huge aluminum smelter. He is in a hurry, Mr. Oddsson explained, because "prime ministers don't tend to sit very long in office in Iceland. I could be a very young ex-prime minister."

As a boy in rural Selfoss, Mr. Oddsson wanted to be a doctor like his father and grandfather. Then, in his teens, he worked as an usher in a movie theatre, developing a passion for words that led him to become a playwright, journalist and book editor.

Of his literary talent, the prime minister said: "I know that I'm a part-time, amateur writer. I like to do it like other people like to go golfing ... I am not a writer to be taken seriously."

His latest drama is a childhood reminiscence that includes a dream about God dropping chewing gum from the sky instead of rain. It has



been produced for television by Hrafn Gunnlaugsson, one

of Mr. Oddsson's old radio partners.

Siblings: Pros and cons

By Maha Addasi

Many parents face the problem of sibling quarrels with broad minds, usually doing their utmost to solve matters as fairly as possible so that their children do not feel that the parents love one sibling more than the other. The conclusion is that parenthood is tough. The solution is to go to the bottom of the problem and see why siblings fight. By talking to siblings more light was shed on the reasons behind these quarrels. Here are a few of those:

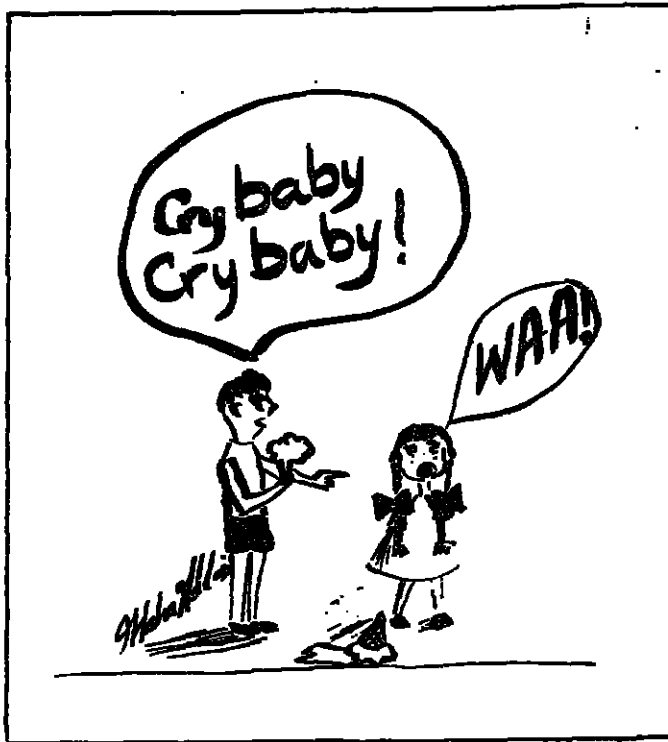
"The reason why I quarrelled with my younger brother was that he stopped listening to me. When he was three and I was seven, I'd say: Get me water, get me a sandwich, go turn the lights off or, go answer the phone. He would. So I'd say 'jump' and he'd say 'how high?' This continued for a year and then, my troubles began. He grew up."

One person said: "I started to get some resistance from him. I would ask for water and he'd get it for me on the condition that when he asked for water I would get it for him. He was asking for equality. To me that spelled disaster. So I solved the water problem. Whoever wanted water went and fetched it themselves. The power game had begun."

"I am a middle child between two sisters," said one girl, "and life is not easy. Although there are no direct conflicts between me and my sisters I get caught in the crossfire when my older sister quarrels with my younger sister," she said. "My older sister expects me to side with her, and my younger sister feels I will side with her. And I end up all alone staring at the ceiling trying to pretend I didn't know they were fighting. You must understand that in itself is an ordeal because when they fight the whole house vibrates from their thunderous voices," she said.

"Clothes are my source of fighting with my brother and sisters," one person said. "My brother and both my sisters are attracted to my shirts. I would think that a certain favourite shirt is in the laundry then I would bump into my sister and lo and behold she'd be wearing my shirt. It drove me nuts. Now when I buy my shirts I take them home and let my brother and sisters choose the shirts they want before I get attached to them. And then I'd offer to sell it to them. So when they figured that they had to pay for the shirts they stopped wearing my clothes," he said. "Money has its way with people."

"I think sibling quarrels, when they're over trivial matters, become a good source of funny memories," one woman said. "But good parental supervision should ensure that no problems turn serious so that siblings don't grow up holding grudges. Unfortunately that wasn't the case with us. When I was young my older brother used to pinch me until my



arms turned blue, but he gave me the liberty of choosing whether I wanted a big pinch or a small pinch. It was a dilemma. They were both killers.

"Today he lives in the apartment above mine. Although he doesn't pinch me any more he still has not matured past that sibling quarrel stage. So one day when his bathroom needed fixing because of a leak, he asked the plumbers to fix it by drilling through the ceiling of my bathroom that is directly below, so that he would save himself the trouble of having workers in his house as that would 'inconvenience him'" she said. "And I thought pinching was bad."

"I think that parents should have a more direct role in how their children interact with each other," said one woman who is continuously at conflict with her siblings. "It was awful how we verbally attacked each other because we knew everything good and bad about each other. So when we wanted to hurt we hit low. Our parents never did much to tell us the perils of such words," she said.

But parents have different opinions. "It is very difficult to keep siblings from fighting. If you don't want fight among siblings, have one child," goes the philosophy of one father, no doubt a victim caught in the middle.

He said Eastern Europe had especially high rates.

The highest on Ms. Weinberger's list was 95 per cent of all couples in Czechoslovakia in 1977. She said one reason the figure for Czechoslovakia was high was that couples there were asked if they had ever used contraception, while questions elsewhere were more limited.

"Most of the difference in levels of use in the developing and developed countries is due to higher levels of use of traditional methods such as rhythm and withdrawal in the (developed) countries," she said.

For the United States, the rate was 74 per cent in 1988. Proportions in Western Europe were higher: 84 per cent in Norway, 80 per cent in France and 77 per cent in Germany. The 13 per cent German women who did not provide an answer were assumed not to be using contraception.

The rate in Japan in 1988 was 56 per cent.

More than half world's couples use contraception

By Carl Hartman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than half — 53 per cent — of the world's couples use contraception, U.N. population officer Mary Beth Weinberger estimated Tuesday.

A large proportion — one out of five — are sterilised, 16 per cent of the women and 4 per cent of the men. One reason for the high proportion is the number in China and India, she explained. She said sterilisation is also increasing in the United States.

Critics of India and China say some of the sterilisation in both has been compulsory.

Ms. Weinberger said she could not comment on that. "I've read the newspapers like you," she said in an interview.

Ms. Weinberger's estimates did not include abortion as a form of contraception. Joseph Chamie, assistant director of the U.N. population division, said in an interview that his office is making a separate study of abortion.

"Most countries where use of female sterilisation has grown rapidly are ... in Asia or Latin America ..." Ms. Weinberger told a conference on population and health surveys.

"This method stands out as having the greatest increase in prevalence and the highest current prevalence of any method."

Another 11 per cent of couples use intra-uterine devices (IUDs) and 7 per cent pills.

"Condoms, rhythm and withdrawal are each employed by 4-5 per cent of the world's couples," she added.

In the third world, just under half the couples — 48 per cent — were estimated to use contraceptives and she said the number is growing rapidly. Her estimates were based largely on figures from demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), a privately-managed enterprise funded by the U.S. government's Agency for International Development (AID). DHS is sponsoring the three-day conference, which ends Wednesday.

Her figure for wealthier countries — 71 per cent of couples — was based on earlier surveys, some going back to 1975.

"Since those countries reached a high level of use back then, we think the rates have not changed much since," Chamie explained.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Aug. 22

1798 — French forces land in Ireland.

1910 — Japan formally annexes Korea.

1911 — Leonardo da Vinci painting Mona Lisa is stolen from Louvre Museum in Paris, France. It is recovered in Italy in 1913.

1941 — Nazi troops reach outskirts of Soviet city Leningrad in World War II.

1972 — Rhodesia is asked to withdraw from 20th summer Olympic Games because of its racial policies.

1986 — Angolan guerrilla leader says Soviet-aided government forces have started using chemical warfare in 10-year struggle for control of nation.

1989 — Colombia's foreign minister discourages any military intervention by United States in struggle against that country's drug barons.

1990 — Scores of angry smokers block street near Moscow's Red Square to protest summer-long cigarette shortage.

Friday, Aug. 23

1813 — French are defeated by German army under Friedrich von Bulow, preventing march on Berlin.

1839 — Hong Kong is taken by British in war with China.

1908 — Abdul Aziz of Morocco is defeated at Marrakesh by Mulai Hafid, the new Sultan.

1927 — Nubas Pasha becomes leader of the Wafd in Egypt.

1937 — Japanese military forces land at Shanghai, China.

1944 — Allied troops in France capture port of Marseilles in World War II.

1952 — Arab League security pact goes into effect.

1958 — China begins bombardment of island of Quemoy.

1964 — Foot bridge collapses over River Gorge in Venezuela, and 29 people fall to their deaths in rapids below.

1975 — Communists complete takeover of Laos.

1986 — Leaders of nine southern African nations, meeting in Angola, express support for international economic sanctions against South Africa.

1987 — Iraqi warplanes bomb key Iranian petrochemical complex of Bandar Khomeini.

1990 — U.S. announces at least 46,000 reservists will be called to active duty to meet troop needs in the Gulf; Republic of Armenia passes declaration of independence, as Estonia begins formal negotiations with Kremlin on separation from Soviet Union.

Saturday, Aug. 24

79 — Mount Vesuvius erupts and buries Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

1654 — French, under Prince of Conde, raise siege of Arras, Belgium.

1896 — Russia invites major world powers to cooperate in reducing armaments.

1921 — Turks, in Battle of the Sakanya, prevent Greek forces from reaching Ankara.

1922 — Arab Congress at Nabulus rejects British mandate for Palestine.

1939 — Nazi Germany and Soviet Union sign 10-year non-aggression pact.

1953 — Kenya government calls on Mau Mau to surrender.

1964 — Fireworks explosion in Atlatlahuaca, Mexico, during religious celebration kills 45 people and injures 33.

1965 — United Arab Republic of Yemen sign cease-fire agreement.

1967 — Mobs from China repeatedly attack British positions along 27-kilometre Hong Kong border and are driven off with tear gas.

1968 — France explodes hydrogen bomb at South Pacific testing ground and becomes world's fifth thermonuclear power.

By The Associated Press

Suzy

By E. Yaghi

In Anytown USA where prairie grass grows as high as corn and the summer breeze rustles leaves of protective birch trees, lived an Arab-American family who had one daughter named Suzy. That small American town was all Suzy had ever known and loved, after all, she was born and had grown up there. She was perfectly happy to go to school and play with her friends that she had known ever since kindergarten days.

But Suzy's parents weren't happy. One day her father who was a Palestinian said, "Martha, we must try to go back to Palestine. I'm sure you would love living there and Anytown's not a good place for Suzy to grow up in. What do you think?"

Suzy listened. She saw a slow smile spread across her mother's face. It seemed she liked the idea. "It would be thrilling to see a different country and see your relatives, Farred. I know you must be very homesick by now and desperately long for your country." With a grin and a shining expression she said, "Let's give it a try, but I don't think we'll have much luck. The situation is really hazardous right now in Palestine with the intifada and all. It might be dangerous for Suzy. On the other hand, I would like her to know the country of her heritage. I want her to always feel that even though I'm an American, she is also a Palestinian. I want her to be proud of that fact and learn about her people and country."

Suzy bounced off her chair and shouted: "All right!" It had been decided then. They would go back for a while at least so Suzy would get to know the country of her father and her ancestors. After a lengthy delay, they finally received the official documents that enabled them to travel to Palestine. "Daddy, are we going to fly in a Palestinian plane? What colour is it? I can hardly wait to see it and go to Palestine where all our relatives live!"

Her father looked disappointed. "No, my dear. There is no Palestinian plane. We must travel in an Israeli one. I'm sorry that we are considered less than second-class citizens and have no rights and certainly no such thing as our own airline."

In New York City, the excited family boarded the Israeli plane and headed for their beloved country. After an exhaustive flight, they landed in Tel Aviv. Already, at the airport, they knew that they would never be treated equally as Israeli citizens. Martha looked shocked. Suzy was stunned. For the first time in their lives, they felt what it was like to be Palestinians living in a Jewish state. Finally, in the middle of the night when only crickets were awake to sing, Suzy and her parents set out for Ramallah. They had decided to stay with his cousin until they could find a place of their own.

The next day, they were overwhelmed by welcoming relatives who hugged Suzy and her mother and tried to make them feel at home. It wasn't long until they settled down and Suzy started to go to school when classes were held. Suzy's father had a little money saved up so she was able to attend a private school. One dreary December day when rain steamed off streets, a very frightened Suzy was apprehended just outside her school by Israeli soldiers. One soldier grabbed her by the hair, hit her and then threw her into a military vehicle. This was the first violence Suzy had ever personally witnessed. She had always been over-protected when living in Anytown. Now her heart pounded in her head. She was wild with fear. She began to cry and pray at the same time, ignoring the other youth

who were in the vehicle with her. "Oh, please, dear God, please have mercy and let me go home! I haven't done anything wrong. Please dear God, I'm so afraid! Spare me pain and injustice!"

From the military van she was roughly taken to a prison where she was beaten and held for more than ten days without bail. She was never charged and her case was continuously postponed by the Israeli authorities.

Meanwhile, word passed by mouth that Suzy had been captured. At first, her parents did not know in which prison she had been confined or even in which city. They contacted the U.S. officials at the Jerusalem Consulate. Still no word about Suzy. "Farred, we must do something more!" A tearful Martha pleaded with her husband. "I won't stand by and not do anything. We must try to contact the State Department. Our Suzy's an American citizen!"

Farred shook his head. "So far being an American hasn't helped Suzy at all. She hasn't been given any special treatment just because she is a U.S. citizen. The Israelis certainly don't care. The Americans don't either. They all want to strike fear in every Palestinian's heart and drive them from their land and rights!"

Martha and Farred persisted in numerous meetings and calls to the State Department and they were assured that the case would receive closer scrutiny and that consular observers would be present at the hearings. But of course, these promised representatives would not appear until after four court dates, all held on Sundays. The scheduling dates was an attempt by the Israelis to limit any official American involvement since Sunday is not a working day for the U.S. embassy.

One year after her capture, Suzy's trial was finally concluded. She received a monetary fine and suspended sentence and a warning by the military judge that if she were ever arrested again, an automatic five-month sentence would be imposed.

When Suzy was released, she ran into her parents arms. "Mommy! Daddy! Please take me home. I want to go back to Anytown where I will never see a prison again or hate or beatings or fear! I don't want to be a Palestinian any more if this is the price I have to pay!"

Suzy and her parents weren't kicked out of their country by eviction papers or a transfer plan, but they left the West Bank for the U.S. in what is viewed as a de facto expulsion. The best weapon was fear. The victims were 12 year old Suzy and her family.

Now, again, Suzy skips rope once more with her American friends. She can never really relate her horrifying experiences to them. They would not believe her anyway. In spite of her traumatic imprisonment, she is trying to forget that one horrible year which turned out to be a nightmare. At night she listens to the wind whistling in the prairie grass and shudders when scenes of her torment come back to her. In Israel, Suzy, an Arab-American, was never treated as American at all, but as Palestinian. She is now free, but what about all the other Palestinian children? Will they forget their torment? Will they ever be free? Will their tears ever be dried by a kind and protective entity and their cold hands be warmed, and will they be able to live in the land of their forefathers as equal human beings with the inalienable rights that should not be denied to anyone in any country regardless of race, colour or creed?

The following events did actually happen. There are many more stories just as tragic and even more so than Suzy's.

Madrid in August — hot, empty and nice

By Robert Hart

MADRID (R) — Seven p.m. three cars line up at a traffic light. A few hundred metres down the four-lane boulevard another handful of cars wait at the next light.

Rush hour in Madrid in early August and there is hardly anybody around.

Aug. 1, five p.m. the streets of the city are jammed solid with traffic. Every highway out of town is saturated with cars inching their painful way forward under a sledgehammer sun.

Railway stations and the airport are packed with families with faces tired by waiting but still expectant.

The scenes are repeated in major cities all over the country. On Aug. 1 every year, whatever day of the week it may be, most of Madrid, almost all of Spain, goes on holiday.

"Operation exit" is under way. It will go on for a couple more days but Aug. 1 is the big one.

Radio stations provide blow-by-blow commentaries on where the worst hold-ups are and advice on how to avoid them.

Thousands of extra police

and paramilitary civil guardsmen are assigned to traffic duty to smooth the course of the holiday flood.

Helicopters patrol the length of the particularly heavily travelled roads leading to the beaches of Alicante and Almeria and the Costa Del Sol in the southeast and far south of the country.

Radio bulletins intersperse travel information with pleas to drive carefully and warnings of the danger of fire in country areas. Forest fires are frequent in this parched month.

As the third or fourth day of August dawns and the sound and fury subside, Madrid settles down on its ledge in the centre of the country for a month of heat and peace and quiet.

Suddenly there are places to park a car at the roadside in a city where normally you would be lucky to find a space on the deepest floor of the third underground car park you try.

Motorists driving a few kilometres to suburban homes in other months fix their gaze on the majesty of the distant mountains to ease the pain of the nose-to-tail

crawl. Now they are home so fast they barely have time to notice the view.

Every day Spanish national radio's early morning local news slots in Madrid are devoted entirely to the state of the traffic into the capital. During August the same voices, crackling in from motor cycle or helicopter, report in slightly incredulous tones on the absence of traffic jams.

There is space to breathe on the pavements. Buses and underground trains which usually resemble overcrowded sardine tins have seats to spare.

You can go to the cinema on a Sunday without standing in endless queues. Supermarkets which normally bulge with overheated customers are calm and cool and almost a pleasure to be in.

There are disadvantages. Restaurants tend to be crowded, but that is mainly because only one in six in the business areas of the city is open.

In the suburbs many small shops pull down the shutters. In the centre, the service department of a major Japanese camera company might be missing a business

opportunity by closing for the entire month.

Madrid is not alone in its August shutdown. A journalist calling the Barcelona Olympic Games organisers for information on a major sports event next month was told: "As this is August, could you call back on Sept. 1?"

The government goes on holiday in August too. Cabinet meetings wind up at the end of July and resume in September or, just possible, at the very end of August.

Local news agencies report at the end of July on where all the ministers are going for their holidays. One lone cabinet minister is left in Madrid to mind the shop.

For one blissful month the pace is slow, the atmosphere relaxed. It is hot — 38 degrees Celsius (100 F) is common — but generally low humidity makes it bearable.

But distant alarm bells may be ringing. A neighbour confided that she was depressed at how many people were still in Madrid this August.

Perhaps the pleasures of Madrid in August are catching on. Maybe it is being discovered.

B.C.



JTV PROGRAMME NOT RECEIVED

Haines, Hurt end feud to make acclaimed film



Actress Marlee Matlin and actor William Hurt arrive at the Academy Award ceremonies in 1987, the year their film *Children of a Lesser God* was nominated for Best Picture Oscar.

By Michael Miller
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Director Randa Haines and actor William Hurt have teamed up again after five years to make a second highly acclaimed film which critics say should win an Oscar.

Haines and Hurt fought often during the making of *Children of a Lesser God*, which became in 1987 the first movie directed by a woman to be nominated for an Oscar as Best Picture.

After making the film, the story of a teacher's relationship with a deaf pupil, Haines spent five years turning down script after script, waiting for the right one to come along.

When it finally landed on her desk, she said, she knew that if it was to succeed only one person could play the lead role — her old adversary Hurt.

In an interview at her Hollywood office, she told how she put aside her trepidations and telephoned Hurt.

"We talked about what it had been like and it seemed there had been a lot of changes in his life. He was different and he agreed that we should work together again," Haines said.

The result was *The Doctor*, based on the true story of Dr. Edward Rosenbaum of Oregon who developed cancer of the larynx at the age of 70 and wrote about his experiences as a doctor-turned-patient in "a taste of my own medicine."

Many critics, lauding the film, referred to the "team of Hurt and Haines", an unusual linking of star and director.

Said Haines of Hurt's performance, "I think he's surpassed anything he's ever done before."

Of their much-reported disagreements on the set of *Children of a Lesser God*, she said, "What is hard for people to understand is that whatever tempestuous stuff went on it had nothing to do with the work."

"We were never arguing

about the work itself. Sometimes people need conflict to get their juices flowing and so as a director you have to provide that. But we were always in creative agreement."

Five years later, she found a different Hurt.

"I think a lot of things have changed in his life which I guess are personal. I think there were some things he couldn't confront before," she said.

Hurt admits he has changed, telling the *Los Angeles Times* in an interview in which he praised Haines that he had matured in the last five years.

Asked why Hurt was vital to the success of *The Doctor*, Haines said, "because he is such an extraordinary actor."

The leading role of Dr. Jack McKee, who in the film is a 40-year-old heart surgeon, is a very complex character, she added.

"And Bill is capable of it. There are many thoughts and many conflicting feelings and emotions happening at

once (in the film). Bill brings that to a role. He has that sort of complexity and that intelligence."

"Also he loves a technical challenge. In *Children* he had to speak in two languages (English and sign language) at the same time. Here he had to become a surgeon and believably operate on people and I knew he could do that. His performance was quite extraordinary."

Asked if she thought the film would be an Oscar contender, she laughed and said, "I hope so. I certainly hope so."

Referring to her fear after *Children of a Lesser God* that she might not be able to repeat her success, she said, "that is always there. I'll have that trouble on the next (film). You think, 'what if I make another film and it's no good and it doesn't move people.'"

It was the theme as much as the subject that attracted her to *The Doctor*.

"I saw in (McKee) a guy who really seems to be on top

of the world. He has everything and yet I saw that, even before his world falls apart, everything has been on the surface."

Haines started as an actress but soon realized there was more excitement on the other side of the camera.

As a script supervisor she initially had no ambition to rise to the heights of director.

"I was happy doing a job where people didn't say 'but what do you really do?' and you have to say 'I'm really an actress but I'm working as a waitress.'"

Now, as one of a small minority of female directors, she would like to see more women behind the camera but realizes the road to the top is a particularly rocky one.

"It's very hard for anybody to become a director. It just takes so much perseverance and luck. Somewhere on the list is talent, but I think even more important is luck and tenacity. So it's hard for anybody but I think it's harder for women."

Japanese, U.S. rice farmers meet in farming musical

By Elaine Kurtenbach
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A musical with the message that shared values of American and Japanese farmers can transcend a bitter trade dispute over rice is drawing large, approving crowds in rural Japan.

Audiences weep and laugh as the bicultural cast of "labour of love" air complaints Japanese and Americans often express, but rarely to each other.

"Wherever you look, everything's Japanese," sing members of a rice-growing family in Louisiana. "We supposedly won the war, but Japan's buying

Rockefeller Centre, Columbia Pictures. ... You guys come over here and buy everything, but we can't buy nothing."

The musical, a joint presentation of a Japanese theatre troupe and one from Seattle, is a rare artistic venture into U.S.-Japanese relations as the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor approaches.

Its theme reflects the widespread belief here that if Americans understood the efforts of Japanese farmers to preserve their traditional lifestyle, they might stop demanding that Japan lift its protective ban on imported rice. The play also expresses

deep sympathy for similar problems of American farmers.

Washington wants Japan to lift the ban on rice imports to help counter a perennial trade imbalance. Japanese farmers argue that their tiny plots, averaging less than two acres per family, cannot compete with large U.S. growers.

Rice would account for less than 5 per cent of trade between the countries if the market was opened, but is a symbol of the frustration Americans face in trying to penetrate other Japanese markets.

The musical is about Kenichi Suzuki, a young Japanese rice farmer who goes to Louisiana on an ex-

change visit and falls in love with Alicia Thibodeaux, spunky daughter of his Cajun host family.

Her father is unimpressed by the visitor, who kicks up his heels in new-found freedom and evinces no enthusiasm for farming.

Suzuki's family arrives and the men start trading jibes about the rice ban and other issues: Auto workers, pearl harbour and Hiroshima. When a storm blows up, however, they put aside their differences and rush to harvest the rice.

In the second act, roles are reversed as the Cajuns visit the Suzukis in the terraced mountains of northern Japan.

The musical ultimately focuses on the love of family and the land shared by all farmers. The families discover they are in the same struggle to keep their land in an age of declining profits and waning government support.

For both, farming is "a labour of love."

Touring Japan, staying in traditional inns and performing in Japanese has been a series of shocks and similitudes for the nine American performers.

Learning her Japanese lines in less than a month was "the hardest thing I've ever had to do ... but it's very, very rewarding," said Kristie Sanders of Seattle. "The

people here give and give and give. Their attitude is great."

"We can't communicate too much, but we say a lot with smiles," said Patrick Ryan Sullivan of Florida.

Japanese cast members went from door to door, drumming up audiences in town that hadn't seen a live theatrical performance in more than 10 years. The Japanese were impressed when the Americans stayed late after a performance to help pack up the set.

Theatrical affection oozed from the Americans. The Japanese actors gradually discarded their stiff formality and started hugging back.

"We were surprised when they hugged us," said Kinji

Oyamada, who plays Kenichi, "but now we've grown used to it."

After the two companies, Furusato (Hometown) Caravan and One Reel of Seattle, agreed on the joint project two years ago, they planned to concentrate on the differences between the families. Visits to both countries yielded the opposite conclusion.

"The feelings were the same on both sides," said Katsuhiko Ishizuka, the co-director. "Instead of differences, I found similarities. When problems arise, like in this musical, it's because of differences of personality, not culture."

Ishizuka says he has no illusions about easing grassroots anger over trade issues.

Reports of 50,000 farmers in Tokyo demonstrating against opening the rice market raised fears among the U.S. cast that they would receive a hostile reception. Oyamada said, however, "The applause for the American cast was bigger than for us."

After the tour of Japan, the cast will adapt the musical for U.S. audiences. One of the U.S. tour stops will be Crowley, Louisiana, where signs along the highway read: "Don't buy Japanese cars. They don't buy rice from us."

A man of many talents Menotti — The Duke of Spoleto

By Clare Pedrick

SPOLETO, Italy — Gian Carlo Menotti detests centuries and anniversaries. "If it's the bi-centenary of Mozart, I'd much rather do Beethoven," said the Italian composer. The remark is a measure of Menotti's individualism and his loathing for mass-marketed culture — his other great hate is television, which, he says, "buries its atom of gold under a pile of rubbish."

But it is also true that, like many artists, this musician is tormented by the need to walk a constant tightrope between art and commercialism. So in spite of his antipathy towards anniversaries, this year's Spoleto Festival — the now-world-famous three-week programme of ballet, opera, theatre, cinema and concerts — Menotti launched 34 years ago — featured Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, in the year of the 200th anniversary of the composer's death. And for next year, he has been asked to compose an opera by the city of Madrid.

He has also had to give in on the subject of another anniversary, this time his own 80th birthday, which fell in July, when the Spoleto Festival was in full swing. "I can't see why there has to be so much fuss over an 80th birthday," said the twice over Pulitzer Prize-winner, widely acknowledged as Italy's greatest living composer and one of the most talented figures in the field of opera anywhere in the world. "When I was 79, I am sure I was no different. And hopefully I'll still be just as good at 1." Even so, Menotti

yielded with good grace as the small Umbrian town which affectionately nicknamed him "The Duke of Spoleto" feted him with a giant-sized birthday cake, a hot-air balloon and an impromptu concert in one of the town's most spectacular piazzas.

People who know Menotti well say part of his reluctance to celebrate his birthday is his difficulty in accepting that he is now 80. There is still much of the child in Menotti, they say, even though he is not above playing on his age when he wants to get his own way. Menotti really does look 20 years younger than his age, a factor he jokingly attributes to his mania for health food shops and vitamins. "I spend a lot of money in health food stores," he said. "I have so many bottles I could open my own store."

Menotti plays no sport other than an occasional bout of tennis, but he follows a hectic schedule, moving between his homes in New York, Spoleto, the Italian Dolomite Mountains and his hideaway mansion in Scotland, composing, directing and organising the two arts festivals that he has launched and nurtured over the years, the Spoleto Festival of the Two Worlds, and its American counterpart, started in 1977 in Charleston, South Carolina.

In the run-up to the Spoleto Festival Menotti was rehearsing up until midnight each day. As well as staging the festival itself, he also directed three of the shows. Two of the centerpieces were his own works — his most recent opera, *Goya*, written for the Spanish tenor Placido Domingo and first staged in 1986, and the closing choral

concert, *Missa O Pulchritudo*.

Composer, librettist, artistic director, playwright, poet and stage director, this Italian-born artist is a man of many talents. The 23 operas he has composed to date display an extraordinary diversity, encompassing every possible form — grand opera, comic and chamber. The first, written when Menotti was only 27, was produced by the New York Metropolitan Opera. Others have been performed in dozens of different venues, including Broadway, television, radio and even in churches.

Menotti writes his own librettos, and sometimes those of other composers. He has also written three concertos, a symphony, dozens of songs and choral pieces, short stories, plays, poems, TV and movie scripts. And he still finds the time and energy for a good battle. Menotti's other hat is as impresario, and at the Charleston Festival in May this year he had a full-scale row with the board of directors over the age-old topic of money and artistic content. "The board of directors has discovered the festival is big business, and so they want it to be directed by a businessman rather than an artist," said Menotti, with disgust.

New talent

Menotti's first festival, the Spoleto one, was launched with the idea of introducing Italian audiences to fresh and exciting new artistic talent. Artists from Africa and Asia have always been an important component of the line-up, even when it was rare to see them in Europe.

When Menotti and his friend and fellow musician,

the late Thomas Schippers, first mooted the idea, many people told them they were mad. The place they had chosen, a crumbling hill town in a remote corner of central Italy, had no facilities other than two beautiful, but run-down theatres that no-one had used for years. The only visitors who ventured to Spoleto were relatives of prisoners held in the top security jail housed in the castle which crowns the medieval town.

But Menotti was convinced the miracle could be worked: These days, Spoleto is ultrachic, crammed with restaurants, antique shops and smart boutiques. Tickets for the festival performances are sold out months in advance. Through the years many of the art world's biggest names have passed through Spoleto, for example dancers Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev and Alvin Ailey; authors, actors and directors such as Edward Albee, Tennessee Williams, John Gielgud, Roman Polanski, Franco Zeffirelli and Luchino Visconti. And after the shows they have all been guests up on the flower-decked roof terrace of the house that Menotti bought for just \$6,000 more than 30 years ago.

"This terrace used to be a chicken coop," he said, sipping a glass of sparkling white wine and admiring the view, for the umpteenth time, of the facade of Spoleto's stunning 12th century cathedral.

Many of the famous names were not famous at all when they first came to Spoleto. Menotti has always made a point of trying to foster new talent and a large proportion of the casts and performers are young. Today, there are dozens of artists who either got their first break at

Spoleto, or performed there when they were still relatively unknown, including actor Al Pacino, Italian ballerina Carla Fracci, Arthur Mitchell of the Dance Theatre of Harlem Company and the exciting Spanish flamenco dancer Antonio Gades. "At the time he was penniless and living in Rome," said Menotti, recalling his first meeting with Gades. "He came to our office and said 'Maestro, let me dance.' After watching him for just two minutes I decided to take him on."

Some, like Gades, have never forgotten Menotti's help and have come back to the festival time and time again, even though the fees are not as high as those they could command elsewhere. Others have proved less grateful. "In general, gratitude is not a feature of this world," mused Menotti. "Unfortunately, when people become famous, they forget you, although there are exceptions. It is not so much the fault of the artists as the fault of the agents, and we cannot pay very much."

As for Menotti himself, his own works are far better known outside his native Italy than at home, he complains. The composer has never got on well with the Italian establishment opera houses such as the Scala in Milan. "They have blackballed my work," he said. Elsewhere, although Menotti's popularity is nothing like as great as it was in his heyday of the 1950s and 1960s, he continues, according to the U.S. magazine *Opera America*, to be the most performed opera composer in the United States.

His works have been translated into at least 14 different languages and he continues



Affectionately known as the Duke of Spoleto for the renowned annual festival he launched years ago, Gian Carlo Menotti gets a hug from grandson Claudio, 4, for his 80th birthday.

to travel the world. He just received the gold medal for music from the U.S. National Arts Club and the Musician of the Year award from the *Musical America Directory* magazine.

Now, as he reluctantly contemplates old age, Menotti's fear is not of death itself, he says, but of not having enough time to do all the things he wants to. "Death and I are good friends, but that doesn't mean I'll invite him into my house," said the maestro. "What really terrifies me is that I will lose memory."

In a sense, Menotti's life has always been a race against the clock. Critics have accused him of leaving some of his works unpublished and he agrees that one of his main faults has been in trying to be too accommodating. At times, he says, he has allowed himself to be sidetracked at the expense of his own music.

"I like to be liked by people, but that is wrong," he said. "I should be nastier, more insistent. You have to defend your space and time, to give to your art." Menotti's own hell, he is fond of saying, can be summed up in two words: "Too late!"

In the future, says the musician, there will be less time spent on administration and directing, and more time putting his own artistic works in order, and composing new ones. Already, the order book is filling up. As well as the Madrid Opera, Menotti has been commissioned, together with nine other European composers, to co-write a Mass for Peace to celebrate the dismantling of the European Community borders in 1992. He is also contemplating a project to stage an Italian arts festival in New York City next year.

And in between the deadlines, Menotti's fervent wish is to spend more time with his

family — with his adopted son Chip, whom the maestro met and befriended when the younger man came for an audition, and with Menotti's 4-year-old grandson, Claudio. In trying to assess his dislikes and likes, Menotti comes up with many hates, he says. Among them are conceptual art, big, modern opera-houses, "that look like airports," musicals such as *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, rock concerts, \$90 million Van Gogh and television. But on the positive side of the balance sheet, Menotti's fair-haired grandson features very strongly, not least, he says, because the boy "assures me he will kill all my enemies with a plastic sword. I hide the television from him, so he won't hear rock music," said Menotti. "I play Mozart to him, and for the moment, he is listening. I'm hoping he will become a musician." — World News Link.

African family safety net fails in AIDS epidemic

By Michael Roddy
Reuter

ABIDJAN — Roger Fayeou pointed a thin finger at a volunteer hospital orderly and said, "without him I wouldn't be alive today."

Mr. Fayeou, 32, a skeletal man who says his legs are now too weak to support him, is terminally ill with AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in an Ivory Coast hospital.

A native of Benin, he worked in Ivory Coast as a shipping agent. Now that he has no income, his wife and five children have gone home to live with relatives, leaving him alone.

Without the help of a volunteer organisation called Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire (Hope-Ivory Coast), Mr. Fayeou would have nothing but a bed and a bit of hospital food until he died. The hospital does not provide free medicines, clothes or other necessities.

"There are plenty of people here who have been abandoned," said the 28-year-old orderly, Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire volunteer Adama Nitiema. "When the family finds out people have AIDS they just go away."

"Sometimes it's because they're scared of the disease, but also it's because they know it costs a lot of money for the medicine and the patient will die anyway."

Cash-strapped countries throughout Africa can't cope with the AIDS epidemic

overwhelming their health care systems.

Ivory Coast, which has seen its cocoa-based economy collapse due to low world prices, has one of the highest AIDS infection rates in the world. The disease is the leading cause of death among adult males in Abidjan.

The epidemic has knocked big holes in the traditional African health safety net provided by an extensive family network.

In Africa, families provide the food for hospital patients, do the washing up, change the bed linen and wash the clothes. When the patient has to come home — to convalesce or to die — the family is there.

But not necessarily for AIDS victims.

Mr. Fayeou depends on volunteers to help him survive in a spartan room with five other men at the infectious diseases ward of Ivory Coast's busiest hospital in the Treichville district of the capital Abidjan.

He said he had had only 10 cents worth of bread to eat the previous day.

The pills he takes to control chronic diarrhoea, which has left him weighing about 35 kilos, and were bought for him by Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire, have run out.

He smiled, despite what he said were shooting pains in his stomach and intestines.

"They tell me my entire stomach is infected," he said. "But when I get better I'm

going to go straight back to Benin — to my wife and children."

Mr. Nitiema and 22 other Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire volunteers make the rounds of the infectious diseases ward every morning. They greet patients, help them tidy up and arrange their bed linen.

In almost every bed there is a thin man who has barely enough energy to respond. Some of them do not know they are infected with the incurable AIDS virus that wrecks the body's immune system.

Ivory Coast, which reported 118 AIDS cases four years ago, told the World Health Organisation (WHO) it had 6,836 full-blown cases of AIDS as of March this year.

Health researchers estimate the number is at least six or seven times that.

"There could be 200,000 to 300,000 HIV infected people in this country in the next 10 years," said Dr. Kevin De Cock, who works for the U.S.-funded research programme Retro-Ci.

"The patients are flooding in... It is an enormous problem."

In Africa the AIDS virus is spread primarily by promiscuous sex without use of condoms.

Dr. Justine Agnes, one of the founders of Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire, said the AIDS problem is overwhelming. "People are afraid of AIDS, they are afraid of death. They know there is no cure. We

have to teach them not to be afraid."

Mr. Agnes, Belgian nun Sister Catherine Mausem and three doctors formed Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire last year to try to fill the gap left when families abandoned AIDS patients.

They readily admit their 22 volunteers are overwhelmed. Their funds — some two million CFA francs (\$6,700) are paltry.

"The economic crisis has really hit hard," said Dr. Makani Koulibaly, a co-founder of Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire and a member of the National AIDS Committee. "And families just cannot deal with a patient who never gets well."

After failing at first to recognise the seriousness of its AIDS crisis, Ivory Coast has begun trying to stem the spread of the disease.

A condom marketing campaign run by the U.S.-based non-profit organisation Population Services International (PSI) started in February.

Project Director Peter Clancy expects to sell at least 1.5 million inexpensive condoms, 30 cents for a package of four, this year and is aiming at sales of 7.5 million condoms within six years.

"We want to sell them everywhere. We sell them in night clubs and hotels frequented by prostitutes. We sell them to the prostitutes themselves, who sell them to their clients," Mr. Clancy said.

Tests on monkeys raise optimism that an AIDS vaccine is on the way

By Klaus Koch

THERE are growing signs that a serum might be developed before the turn of the century to treat the Aids virus, HIV. Three years ago scientists were pessimistic about the chances of developing a vaccine at all. The latest report of success is from the primate studies centre at Göttingen University, where Gerhard Hunsmann and his staff have cured four out of seven rhesus monkey of SIV by giving them four inoculations over a period of 16 weeks.

SIV, or simian immunodeficiency virus, is closely related to its human counterpart and triggers an immune deficiency in rhesus monkeys that is similar to Aids in humans. Research scientists in the United States reported similar results in experiments with rhesus monkeys last year.

"Back to the roots" could be the motto of the Göttingen scientists' success. They used tried and trusted, if arduous, techniques to manufacture their serum. To produce a few milligrammes they had to isolate simian virus material from 100 litres of cell culture medium. Protein was extracted from the virus concentrate by means of a detergent, and any surviving viruses were deactivated by

ether treatment.

The solution was then given an admixture of aluminium hydroxide, an additive that backs up immunisation. Serum to treat influenza and measles has been manufactured in this way for over 20 years. The classic method of manufacturing vaccine used in Göttingen may seem safe, but a future HIV serum, if there is one, can hardly be made in this way. The risk of living virus impurities would need to be totally eliminated.

So the crucial virus constituents must now be identified so that they can later be produced by genetic engineering or bacteria or other cells. This manufacturing technique has further advantages. There is no risk of infection during production. The vaccine can be manufactured in constant quality. Production costs are markedly lower.

The mixture used in Göttingen must be broken down into its constituent parts. Virus proteins can then be systematically identified which, singly or in combination, give protection from active viruses. The European division of labour that helped the Göttingen group to get where it is will prove helpful here too.

Nine institutes in six European Community countries coordinated research to cut

down on experiments with laboratory animals and to save time, money and resources. The success of research work at the German Primate Studies Centre vindicates the European dimension of what is officially known as the First European Aids Vaccines Trial.

The first questions to be answered are how long the four monkeys will retain their SIV immunity and whether the injection didn't work on the other three because the dosage was too low. In addition to the protective effect the Göttingen group hope they may have discovered another important detail. In the blood of the four monkeys on which the serum worked, and only in their blood, SIV triggered reproduction of a major cell group in the immune system, a group that includes the so-called T helper cells.

If this reaction, which can easily be measured, is found to be a sure sign of immunity, Professor Hunsmann says, about a year's research and many rounds of experiments with laboratory animals will no longer be needed. Instead of live monkeys, many experiments that are now needed in the quest for the virus constituents that do the trick can then be carried out on blood samples taken from the animals.

No matter how the crucial SIV proteins are identified, the next step must be to apply the findings to the human Aids virus. This, Professor Hunsmann says, is the earliest stage at which experiments on chimpanzees can be considered. Chimps, unlike rhesus monkeys, can be infected with the human Aids virus, but fail to develop the typical symptoms. Last year a group of U.S. scientists succeeded in vaccinating three chimpanzees, man's closest relatives in the animal world. But there are so few chimpanzees available that detailed long-term series of experiments cannot be carried out on them.

Finally, once an HIV vaccine holds forth lasting promise of protection from human immunodeficiency, tests on humans will be due. Experiments with risk groups such as homosexuals and, possibly, large-scale trials in highly endangered African cities would be needed to show whether and on what basis vaccination might reduce the risk of natural infection.

Planning is clear but it will definitely be a few years before this stage is reached. Until then Professor Hunsmann is mainly hoping "they will give us enough money and leave us in peace" — Die Welt.

Working party looks into the mysteries of a widespread sleeping sickness in Germany

By Claudia Eberhard-Metzger

WHEN Rolf S., 55, first consulted his family doctor he had a bad bruise on his forehead. He said he had just walked straight into a lamp in broad daylight and without a drop of alcohol inside him. No-one seemed to believe him. But he was simply no longer able to concentrate. He was tired out and always felt that way. He was getting in enough sleep, but even after 12 hours' sleep he felt tired in the morning.

He woke up with headaches and nodded off while reading the paper over breakfast. He had lost his job as a night-watchman after being repeatedly found fast asleep. He disliked driving in case he fell asleep at the wheel.

He had been tired for three years and his wife had just stopped sleeping in the same bedroom because she could no longer stand his loud snoring. His family might laugh at him but he was convinced he was suffering from some kind of sleeping sickness. He was referred to the sleep laboratory at the nearest university hospital, where the staff confirmed what no-one had been willing to believe.

Rolf S. was found to be suffering from the sleeper's form of apnoea, literally cessation of breathing, which is said to be the most widespread form of sleep-related breathing trouble. It is a complaint that seriously affects the entire body and can have lethal consequences, and it is, in every sense of the term, a dormant condition.

As recently as 10 years ago it was virtually unknown. Only in recent years has it been considered of any medical significance, with the result that the high number of cases in which it occurs has come to light. A Marburg University working party was one of the first to look into this mysterious complaint in Germany. It played a crucial

role in helping to understand its causes and to devise diagnosis techniques and treatment.

It recently held a conference in Marburg to mark the tenth anniversary of its foundation and experts were able to exchange information about sleep-related breathing complaints. About one man in 10 between the ages of 30 and 60 was said to suffer from apnoea, which makes it not a mere medical curiosity but a complaint that is no less widespread than chronic bronchitis.

"On balance," said Jörg Hermann Peter, the head of the Marburg sleep laboratory, "over two million Germans can be said to face the threat of apnoea; for over 200,000 of them it is a lethal risk."

People who are dozy in the daytime despite getting in over seven hours' sleep at night may suffer from apnoea. They are 90-per-cent likely to do so if they show signs of three other symptoms. These telltale symptoms are loud and irregular snoring, an excessive tendency to fall asleep during monotonous activity (red herrings that point to cardiac and circulatory complaints). Obesity is a further factor.

Patients suffer from extreme daytime fatigue, from morning headaches, impotence and poor concentration. Performance plummets, down to and including being pensioned off as disabled. And they are often a serious accident risk too. American surveys indicate that apnoeic motorists are a three times more serious accident risk than the average driver. "Serious accidents with fatal consequences are often caused by apnoea," Dr. Peter said.

What causes patients such trouble during the day begins at night. Healthy people sleep in accordance with a clear pattern. In apnoea patients this pattern is totally out of joint. They can't "recharge their batteries" in

their sleep because they don't go through the phases in which healthy sleepers are able to do so.

This is the result of alarm or awakening reactions triggered by the brain. They are literally life-savers; if the brain didn't emit them the sleeper would die of asphyxia. The apnoea patient does indeed suffer from a cessation of breathing: up to 800 times a night, or so sleep laboratory findings indicate. Apnoea is said to occur when breathing stops for at least 10 seconds.

That can happen to anyone, and as long as it happens less than five times per hour of sleep there is no cause for alarm. Ten times and more is the critical level. In infrequent cases breathing can stop for up to two minutes. During apnoea phases the muscle groups that are associated with breathing either fail to coordinate or don't get their act together at all. The throat muscles shut down and breathing stops.

Yet the patient isn't asphyxiated. The alarming lack of oxygen in the blood forces the brain to adopt a survival strategy. Throat muscles are activated and deep breathing sets in to redress the blood oxygen balance. That is the reason for apnoea patients' loud and irregular snoring. Their apnoea phase ends, the body is awakened, breathing is coordinated again — and the sleeper sleeps on.

But it isn't a healthy, refreshing sleep. Its natural course is interrupted. The patient wakes up feeling shattered, irritated and badly in need of sleep, and patients in an advanced stage of the complaint tend to fall asleep during the day. This sleep upset doesn't just affect the patient mentally and socially; it also has immediate physical consequences, especially in respect of heart and circulation. Nearly two out of three apnoea patients have high blood pressure and many suf-

fer from serious cardiac irregularities.

The more often they stop breathing in the night and the longer they do so, the more dangerous the condition becomes. "If it isn't treated," Dr. Peter warned, "the patient's life expectancy will decline markedly." There is no cure. But if the condition is spotted in good time and treatment given, the symptoms can be fully remedied. In mild cases losing weight can bring about a marked improvement.

Alcohol and heavy food ought always to be avoided, especially in the evening. Sleeping tablets and tranquilisers should be avoided too. Patients must train themselves to abide by a regular pattern of sleep and waking states. They should try to avoid not getting enough sleep and to take a 30-minute nap at lunchtime to stop themselves from involuntarily nodding off during the afternoon.

In serious cases Theophyllin is prescribed. If there is no improvement the patient must wear a mask in his sleep. Air is constantly pumped into the mask at slight above atmospheric pressure, thereby keeping the respiratory passages open. This treatment was introduced about 10 years ago. It is cumbersome but extremely successful. Cessation of breathing and snoring stop, sleep returns to normal and patients wake up feeling rested and recovered.

Success rates of over 90 per cent are reported, which makes the mask by far the most effective means of treating apnoea in sleep. The patient wears the mask at home in bed but it needs servicing from time to time and the patient is given a periodic medical too. In Marburg over 600 patients have been equipped with this equipment. Its only drawback is that it must be used for life. But patients seem to feel that is a minor drawback — Die Welt.

Parental occupations do not increase risk of prematurity

LONDON (AP) — Parental exposure to chemicals or other substances on the job does not affect whether children are born prematurely or at a low birth weight, according to a study published in this week's *Lancet*.

Mounting fears that chemicals or other work-related exposures adversely affect sperm or damage a fetus prompted researchers to review birth records of 252,147 babies born between 1981 and 1984 in Scotland.

"The data indicate that neither maternal nor paternal occupational exposures have strong effects on the risk of prematurity," said Dr. Eve Roman, an investigator at the Imperial Cancer Research

Fund at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford.

Babies born before 37 weeks of pregnancy are premature. Birth weight less than 5.5 pounds is classified as low.

Dr. Robert W. Miller, the chief of clinical epidemiology at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, said in a telephone interview the study is "reassuring" because there was no large cluster of low weight or premature babies born to parents of a particular profession.

Overall, 5 per cent of the babies studied were too light, and 5 per cent were premature.

Among 15 categories of

manual labour, investigators did find that women who worked with leather, metal or electrical goods were 50 per cent more likely to have low birth weight or premature babies compared to females who worked with paint, paper or wood.

They also found that men who worked with ceramics were more likely to father babies born too light or too early.

But Dr. Miller said the findings could have been due to chance, or to factors not related to work, such as smoking.

Cigarette smoking is known to increase the risk of having a low birth weight

baby. The investigators did not look at parental smoking. "It doesn't mean it's a real risk, but the potential links we've found warrant further research," Roman said in a telephone interview.

Dr. Teresa Schnorr — an epidemiologist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Cincinnati, Ohio — said the "study is a good initial step to identify occupations where hazards may really be a problem."

For instance, she said in a telephone interview, other researchers may want to study more closely women who work with leather or electrical goods.

Scientists struggle to answer why we hurt as much as we do

By Christine Tierney
Reuter

MONTREAL — Medical science, despite all its advances through the centuries, is still trying to wrestle with an age-old question — how to control pain.

Dr. Patrick Wall of the University College of London recently opened a symposium on pain in Montreal with evidence of the "bad state of the field." He cited a recent study in Newcastle that showed cur-

rent pain therapies either failed to relieve or aggravated the discomfort of 75 test patients recovering from chest surgery.

"Anyone who's had arthritis, shingles or low back pain knows their pains are not being adequately treated," Dr. Wall said.

The problem is universal. Although different cultural groups express pain in different ways, with some exhibiting greater stoicism than others, Dr. Ronald Melzack

of McGill University said pain thresholds vary little among individuals.

Women tend to have higher thresholds than men, according to a recent University of Montreal study, but the overall range is narrow.

Most scientists today subscribe to the gate control theory of pain, developed by Dr. Wall and Dr. Melzack in the 1960s, that suggests the nervous system can modify sensations.

"It says the transmission of

nerve signals from an injured area in the body can be inhibited or facilitated. There are gates than can be opened or closed," Dr. Melzack said.

Evidence that the brain can send signals to interfere with the transmission of pain came with the discovery in the 1970s of the brain's own opiates, called endorphins. Psychologists have applied this knowledge to develop therapies based on relaxation and distraction.

Cancer hopes — much more than a kiss under the mistletoe

WHEN Miraculix mixed his magic potion in the Asterix comics for heroes Asterix and Obelix, it always contains a sprig of mistletoe.

Pliny the Elder, 24-79 AD, said Celtic priests or druids used to cut mistletoe from its host tree with a golden sickle, caught it in a white cloth and sacrificed it to the gods with an ox.

In the ancient world mistletoe was widely regarded as a token of salvation and a symbol of immortality.

Research scientists at the

Max Planck Institute of Experimental Medicine in Göttingen have taken a closer latter-day look at the curative properties of mistletoe.

Together with colleagues in Cologne and the United States they have proved the existence, in mistletoe, of a special protein, ML1.

It stimulates the immune system and has been found in experiments with mice to keep killer cells in the body on the move.

"When we started our research work in 1987," says

Dr. Hans-Joachim Gabius, head of the research team, "we never imagined we would make such headway."

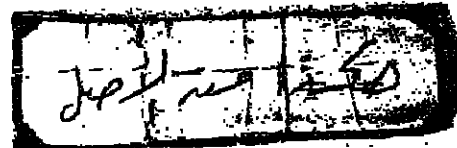
ML1 is a lectin and plays an important part in inter-cell communication. It latches on to the surface of white blood corpuscles, which then emit zytocins.

These messenger substances activate the immune system. A billionth of a gramme of lectin per kilogramme of body weight is said, when injected, to reactivate a disturbed immune system.

"More doesn't have any greater effect," Dr. Gabius says. Patients may then have fever or muscle pains; they are signs that the injection is having the desired effect.

Injectations should be given at intervals, with at least two days between each jab. The mistletoe may one day help cancer patients whose immune system is immobilised. "We shall have to wait and see what results clinical studies come up with," Dr. Gabius adds — *Hamburger Abendblatt*.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED



Soviet policy in the Gulf

(Continued from page 4)

Union, up to \$10 billion in the year 1990. In order to, on the one hand, offset these losses and, on the other hand, not completely lose military influence in the region the Soviet Union tried to find new Middle East markets for the sale of its weapons during the Gulf conflict.

In September 1990 Radio Moscow announced that Iran was to receive a supply of the latest Soviet MiG 29 fighter-bombers.

On Jan. 4, 1991 a Soviet ship was stopped by Spanish and American patrol boats in the Red sea. It had 100 tonnes of military cargo on board, which was allegedly on its way to Jordanian armed forces; its true destination, however, was assumed to be Iraq.

In January 1991, 50 Iraqi navy officers began their training at a naval base near Riga, where Iraqi officers had been trained up until November 1990.

At the beginning of February 1991 Syria's Defence Minister Tlas visited the Soviet Union. He announced that a series of agreements had been concluded on the modernisation of the Syrian armed forces and on the maintenance of its "combat ability". French military sources reported supplies of military material and spare parts to Iran, which did not have the corresponding Soviet weapons. An indication of secret military aid to Iraq.

The degree to which the Soviet leadership dissociated itself in the final stages of the Gulf war from its position at the beginning of the crisis with respect to the question of arms supplies to Iraq became clear during the last days of the allied offensive and the period which followed.

In February 1991 the members of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR called upon Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh to ensure that Iraq received military aid from the USSR for defence purposes. Mr. Bessmertnykh refused.

During the numerous press conferences in Moscow at the end of the military conflict, however, no high-ranking Soviet functionary or politician was willing to answer the question how future relations between Moscow and Baghdad would be shaped. Both Deputy Foreign Minister Belonogov and the president's spokes-

man Ignatenko gave an evasive answer to the question whether the Soviet Union was still willing to supply arms to Iraq. Mr. Belonogov simply remarked that the U.N. Security Council resolutions made no mention of future limitations for Iraq. Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh rejected a unilateral Soviet ban on arms supplies and added that this question could only be resolved through a common approach by all arms-exporting nations.

Britain's Prime Minister John Major was also given no assurances during his visit to Moscow at the beginning of March 1991 that the Soviet Union would not help Iraq rebuild its military potential. The Soviet side argued that Iraq would not only need replacements for the defensive weapons destroyed during the war, but also weapons "to a modest extent" to safeguard the military balance of power in the region.

During the negotiations on the ceasefire arrangements in the U.N. Security Council the Soviet Union tried to ensure that Iraq could keep a number of short-range missiles with a range of up to 340 kilometres. Thanks to pressure by the USSR, Iraq is allowed, in accordance with Resolution 687, to retain missiles with a range of up to 150 kilometres, even though the original resolution draft envisaged the destruction of all Iraqi ballistic missiles.

The consequences of the Gulf war from a Soviet angle

The analyses of the military action in the Gulf region presented in the Soviet media at the beginning and at the end of the war gave an insight into the current expectations and hopes of the Soviet military and security policy establishment. At the beginning of the war there was a striking emphasis of the strength of the Iraqi army and the prediction that the war would end without a victory and with a mere Pyrrhic victory by the U.N. coalition.

The head of the Centre for Strategic-Operative Research of the Soviet General Staff, General Bogdanov, refused to predict an Iraqi defeat. After the superiority of Western high-tech weapons could no longer be denied, it was

claimed that the theatre of war in the Persian Gulf had become a testing ground for sophisticated weapons systems. With tests "on living material." As the defeat of the Iraqi army came nearer, efforts were made to prove that the poor professional qualities of the Iraqi army, not the inferiority of Soviet weapons, had brought about the outcome of the war.

In February 1991 Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh told the Supreme Soviet of the USSR that there were no "double standards" in the USSR's position on the Gulf conflict. This and similar declarations by the Kremlin, however, compared with numerous anti-American and pro-Iraqi statements. In September 1990 the chief of General Staff of the Soviet armed forces, Army General Moiseev, warned against the escalation of the Gulf crisis into a world war. This scenario was taken up consistently in the Soviet propaganda. In order to be able to correspondingly define the military conflict in the Gulf region a new concept was coined: "sub-world war." The Gulf conflict led, especially during its final stages, to an escalation of anti-American propaganda in line with long-standing patterns. The U.S. was branded as a bellicose state, and NATO as a rival military alliance.

Soviet analyses and commentaries focused a great deal of interest on the problem "Gulf and NATO." Some authors viewed the Gulf war as "a model of a hypothetical war between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, and the anti-Iraqi coalition of the allied forces was equated with NATO. Army General Lobov, chief of staff of the Warsaw Pact, openly claimed that NATO was basically operating in the Gulf beneath the flag of the U.N. coalition.

In the opinion of the party organ Pravda, NATO could try to take advantage of the Gulf war to impose its power on the region. The army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda wrote that the North Atlantic Union had assumed the functions of a coordinator of military preparation since the early days of the conflict.

The Gulf conflict had given fresh impetus to those forces in NATO which advocated the bloc's military strength. The bloc was planning additional measures to modernise the armed forces and the military infrastructure in Southern Europe; the NATO

committees had discontinued their work on reduction programmes. NATO's reaction to the Gulf crisis could jeopardise everything which had been achieved in the field of disarmament in Europe and in the world.

Soviet criticism of the policy pursued by the U.S. increased after military action began in the Persian Gulf. From the Soviet point of view the real provocative factors were the U.S.'s geostrategic gains and the corresponding geopolitical losses of the USSR in the Middle East and on a global scale. The events in the Persian Gulf were and are, therefore, viewed by a number of groups in the Soviet leadership through the prism of the old "zero-sum" pattern. The new prestige of the U.S. and the growing questionability of the Soviet claim to a role as world power in view of the dire internal crisis shape the reaction to the outcome of the Gulf conflict; both the current foreign as well as domestic policy problems confronting the country centre on these aspects.

Critics of the Soviet policy in the Gulf took the opinion that supporting the anti-Iraqi coalition was extremely detrimental in terms of power politics. The Soviet Union was running the risk of losing its role as a major power and thus its influence in the Third World. This had above all been a war for the U.S.'s sole leadership role in the world, the party newspaper Pravda maintained during the final days of the war.

In fact, a new term was introduced to describe the new self-esteem of the U.S. following the Gulf war victory: "hyperpower." The new feeling of a hyperpower status would tempt some American politicians to put on airs and graces when dealing with the Soviet leadership. In order to counter this dangerous development the USSR would have to revive its self-confidence and sharpen its image as a superpower. Mr. Gorbachev's peace initiative was viewed in this light: for the first time since the outbreak of war the USSR had acted as a major power; Moscow had at long last spoken with an independent voice.

Implications of the Gulf conflict for Soviet-American relations

The Soviet leadership regards

the preservation of its world-power status as a serious challenge. Against the background of Soviet concern about a new balance of power following the Gulf war the question arises how this concern will affect the current state and future character of Soviet-American relations. Despite declarations to the contrary by Mr. Gorbachev and other Soviet politicians, adjustment in the Soviet foreign policy course were urged as inevitable immediately after Mr. Shevardnadze's resignation. During his first visit to Washington in January 1991 Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh said that the events in a number of "trouble spots," especially in the Persian Gulf, were casting a certain shadow on Soviet-American relations. Mr. Gorbachev described this relationship as fragile. After the end of the Gulf war Soviet analysts and commentators were convinced that the Soviet-American relationship was bound to take a turn for the worse.

The new partnership between the USSR and the U.S. proclaimed by Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev during the summit meeting in Helsinki in September 1990 was short-lived. Today, there tends to be talk in the Soviet Union about a return to a "normal rivalry" in relations. The undoubtedly effected foreign policy course adjustments became particularly apparent in the field of disarmament, in the violation of the CDE Agreement and the hardening of the Soviet position on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons START.

Following the Gulf, which clearly demonstrated the superiority of Western high-tech weapons, and following the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact a further hardening of the Soviet disarmament policy can be expected. Representatives of the Soviet military leadership openly declare that the USSR must maintain military parity with NATO as a whole and not just

the U.S. in the new international situation.

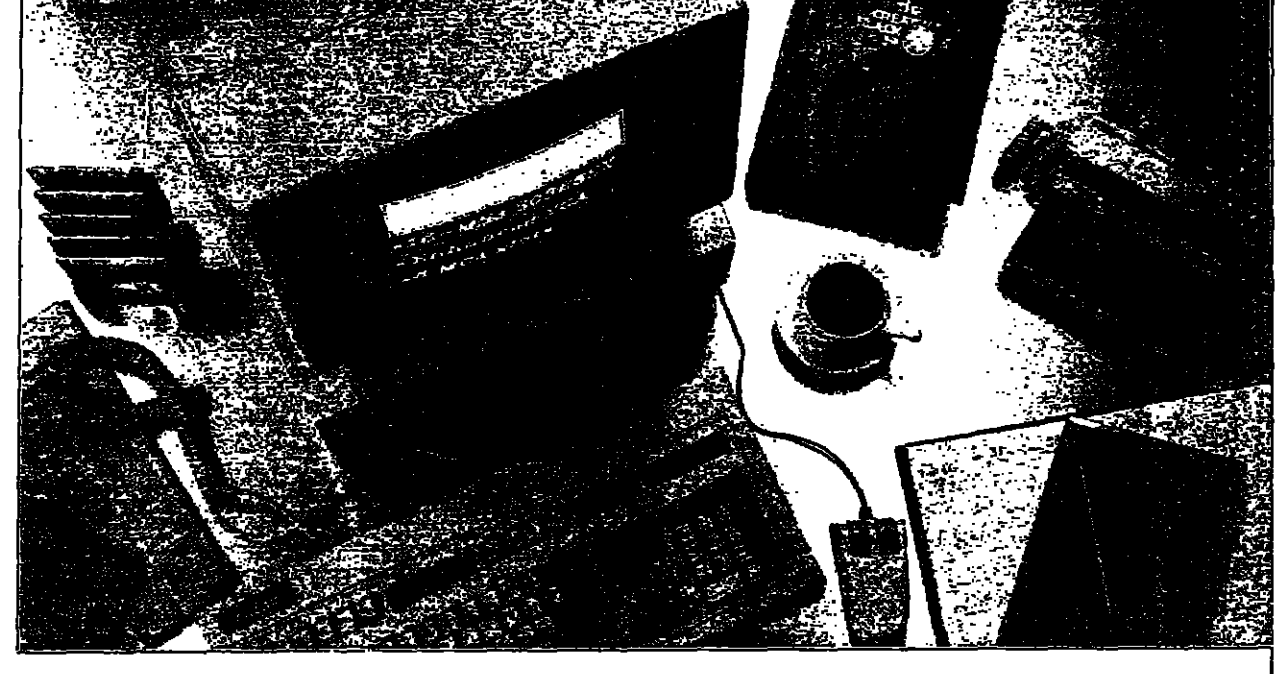
There are indications of attempts to re-ideologise Soviet foreign policy. The Soviet Defence Minister Yazov spoke of the Gulf war as a war with class character. In an article in the Pravda it was assumed that relations between the USSR and the U.S. would have to be based on the principles of peaceful coexistence.

The concept of "peaceful coexistence," however, was part of the vocabulary of the cold war and presupposes the existence of two antagonistic systems. Such notions are incompatible with a new cooperation and a new partnership with the West.

The following fields have become particularly problematic for the Soviet-American relationship: disarmament, the restorative development in the Soviet Union itself, and Moscow's reaction to the new balance of power after the end of the Gulf war. The domestic policy about-turn in the USSR, the clearly growing influence of the orthodox-reactionary forces — of the party apparatus, the military, the military-industrial complex and the KGB — made a dissociation from the policy of cooperation with the West, above all with the U.S., inevitable. Today, it is fair to claim that there is a genuine crisis in relations between Moscow and Washington.

This article was written before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was ousted from power on Monday, Aug. 19, 1991. It appeared in the English edition of "Ausser Politik", a German foreign affairs review magazine issued in Hamburg. The writer is a scientific assistant at the Federal Institute for Soviet and International Studies in Cologne and an acknowledged expert on both the Soviet policy towards the U.S. and the domestic policy development in the Soviet Union.

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Developments in USSR purely internal Soviet affair — Ensour

(Continued from Page 1)

Q: Does Syria and Jordan agree that their participation in the conference is contingent on Palestinian representation?

A: Our position is very clear. We will attend within a joint delegation and we will not be attending (the conference) alone. We have also announced very clearly that the Palestinian component of the joint delegation will be named by the Palestinians. It is not for us to propose names, to accept or refuse names. It is up to the Palestinians themselves to do that and we will not interfere. We also will not interfere in their position even after the conference starts. It is up to them to discuss the Palestinian problem. The Jordanian component will be discussing Jordanian-Israeli bilateral issues and not the Palestinian dimension (of the conflict).

Q: Did you receive Syrian support for the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

A: The Syrians have made it clear again that they themselves will not interfere in the way the Palestinians are represented. They have nothing against a joint delegation or a separate delegation or any other formula, and they have made their position publicly clear. They also reiterated

their position during our meeting in the past two days. So there is no ambiguity.

Q: Chairman Arafat is expected here next week. Do you think that a memo of understanding would result after this meeting or is it just a continuation of contacts you have had before?

A: Mr. Arafat will come here with questions and proposals. Whether he will propose a memo of understanding or not, that is up to him. But our announced positions, our understanding of the peace process (that it has to be) a comprehensive peace plan and not a separate deal. This means that they (the Palestinians), the Jordanians and the Syrians have to agree to the final arrangements. How could this concept take place unless we understand right from the beginning the content and the operation of the peace process? Understanding and cooperation is a necessity. No doubt about that. Now, will that understanding be written, recorded or be transmitted orally? That will be left to the discussions that will start when (Mr. Arafat) arrives.

Q: Do we know the nature of the questions the PLO chairman will ask? As we understand it, the letter Jordan received last week from the Palestinian leadership was asking for assur-

ances from Jordan on basic principles regarding the aims of the peace process and the make-up of the joint delegation?

A: Their problem is with the Israelis. It is the Israelis who have under their control all the occupied territories; they have Jerusalem, they have (stamped) the rights of the Palestinians. So what the Palestinians need is a memo of understanding from the co-sponsors and not from Jordan. Jordan has made it very clear that it will not act on behalf of the Palestinians and it will not interfere in their attitudes towards the proposals. Now if the conference takes place we will discuss Jordanian-Israeli bilateral relations. The Palestinian problems are with the Israelis. But how would the relation between the Palestinians and Jordanians be after and during the peace operation, that will be left to the meeting that is expected next week and this is very necessary.

Q: In an interview last week, the King spoke of a feeling that the Palestinians were ready to form a delegation to the conference. Did the Jordanians arrive at that feeling from concerns messages from the Palestinian leadership?

A: It is only a feeling. Until now we have not heard or discussed with

the Palestinians anything that has to do with names. So it is only a feeling and I do share that feeling. I think they (Palestinians) are discussing all possibilities including a list of names, but to discuss a list of names does not mean that they will attend. They are evidently preparing for a decision on this.

Q: Are we seeing better coordination among the Arab parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli peace talks?

A: I expect that after the Palestinians make their own position clear, a meeting of the four or five countries, the fifth being Lebanon, would take place on a certain level. They can start with ministers of foreign ministries and conclude in a summit. There is an agreement really between Syria and Jordan that such consultations, on such levels, are necessary.

Q: Do you believe that a final format will be reached for a joint delegation during Chairman Arafat's visit here?

A: It depends. I do not know what Chairman Arafat will carry in his briefcase. It is left to him to propose or to refrain. I suppose there should be substance to his visit. I am sure that he has something to say, to announce or to ask. I really have no said information on this.

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Al Hussein bows to Al Wahda in Al Ramtha Arab Games

IRBID — Al Hussein team has suffered a double defeat in its first football match of the Ramtha Arab Tournament held at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid. Al Hussein lost to the Syrian Al Wahda 1-0. The goal was scored in the 60th minute by Nizar Mahrus from a penalty kick. Towards the end of the match, Al Hussein defender Fayez Youssef and striker Aref Hussein both received the red card.

Jordan's Al Ramtha team defeated the Syrian Tishreen team 6-1 in the opening match of the tournament.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Rains wash out Stich match

SCHENECTADY, New York (R) — Second-seeded Sergi Bruguera rallied from one set down to oust Jason Stoltenberg after rain washed out several first-round matches including Wimbledon champion Michael Stich's at the \$250,000 OTB Open Tennis Tournament. Bruguera, ranked ninth, had a difficult time but persevered against Stoltenberg of Australia, winning 4-6, 6-2, 6-3. The match between third-ranked Stich and Mark Woodforde of Australia was rained out. Third-seeded Emilio Sanchez breezed through Dave Adams of Australia 6-4, 6-1. Fourth seed Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union and compatriot and fifth seed Alexander Volkov also advanced easily.

2 seeds, Shriver win in Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — Second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain and third-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez both posted easy straight set victories and then Fernandez spoke out on Monica Seles' withdrawal at the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Washington. Sanchez-Vicario downed Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 6-4 in 66 minutes, and Fernandez needed 69 minutes to beat South African Mariana de Swardt 6-4, 6-1 in second-round matches in the 28-player draw. The top four seeds drew first-round byes. Seles of Yugoslavia withdrew after a miscommunicated phone message inadvertently placed her in the tournament as the top seed when the intent of the message was to inform officials she did not want to play. American Pam Shriver continued her successful comeback with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Elena Reinach of South Africa in a first-round match. Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia beat Soviet Natalia Zvereva 6-1, 7-5.

Arsenal defeated 3-1 at Everton

LONDON (R) — English champions Arsenal, beaten only once in the league last season, crashed to a 3-1 defeat at Everton in their second game of the season Tuesday. Arsenal's defeat was their biggest in the league since October 1989 when Everton beat them 3-0. Mark Ward, Everton's new signing from Manchester City, scored twice on his home debut, his first coming three minutes into first-half injury time.

Morceli listed for 3 events in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Algerian middle-distance runner Noureddine Morceli played a guessing game with his opponents at the World Athletics Championships by putting his name forward in three events when the deadline for entries closed Tuesday. Morceli, favourite to win the 1,500 metres in the championships which start Saturday, was also entered in the 800 and 5,000 metres. If the 21-year-old Algerian ran in all three events and reached the finals he would be involved in a punishing programme of nine races in the nine-day championships, including the 1,500 and 5,000 metres finals on the closing day, Sept. 1. With no outstanding record over either the shorter or longer distance, Morceli was expected to concentrate on the 1,500 metres though there was speculation that he might use the 800 metres earlier in the programme as a warm-up. The tactic of entering several events was often used in the past by Moroccan Said Aouita, world 5,000 metres champion four years ago in Rome. But Aouita, who holds four world records over distances between 1,500 and 5,000 metres, made his intentions crystal clear this time by entering only the 1,500 metres.

NBA stars to play in Olympics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Magic Johnson and Patrick Ewing have formally committed to play on the 1992 U.S. Olympic basketball team, according to a published report Tuesday. USA Today reported that Johnson and Ewing are the only players on the USA Basketball Selection Subcommittee's 10-man wish list to respond. Others on the list are: Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, David Robinson, Charles Barkley, Karl Malone, John Stockton, Scottie Pippen and Chris Mullin. The newspaper reported that commitments are being sought from the players in advance of the formal selection, which is scheduled for Sept. 21.

IAAF doubles drug ban on day Johnson flies into Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) doubled its ban for serious doping offences to four years Wednesday on the day Ben Johnson flew in to Tokyo for the Third World Championships.

Johnson, banned for two years after testing positive for an anabolic steroid at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, has returned to international competition this year.

The Canadian has been included in his country's sprint relay team although his form has slumped dramatically since he set world 100 metres records at the 1987 Rome World Championships and again in Seoul. Neither record is now recognised.

The final day of the IAAF's biennial congress voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to double the two-year ban for athletes tested positive for serious drugs such as steroids.

And British delegate David Bedford, a former world record holder over 10,000 metres, said he thought the large sums of money earned by Johnson this year had been a factor in the vote.

"The fact that Ben Johnson was able to return very quickly and be seen by the world to earn large sums of money I'm sure

influenced many athletes who thought the doping issue wasn't important," Bedford said.

Canadian athletics sources said they estimated Johnson had earned half a million dollars on the indoor circuit and nearly the same amount outdoors this year.

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo told a post-congress news conference the ban was intended to be a very serious sanction.

"We think that sanction will be a very great deterrent for athletes," Nebiolo said.

In its final deliberations Wednesday afternoon, the congress accepted a council resolution which would ensure the surface of the javelin remains completely smooth.

Finn Seppo Raty, the defending world champion, has set two world records this year with a javelin which has plastic tape added by the manufacturers.

Another manufacturer has deliberately roughened the surface in order to achieve greater length.

Bedford read a letter to the congress from Briton Steve Buckley, whose mark of 89.58 metres set in Stockholm last year is the furthest ever thrown by a javelin with a smooth surface.

In his letter Buckley argued the

case for a smooth surface, saying the distances now being thrown were getting close to the potentially dangerous marks set by the old javelin before the centre of gravity was changed in 1985.

The new regulation will come into force after the Barcelona Grand Prix final on Sept. 20.

But officials were unable to say if Buckley's mark will now be reinstated as the world record.

"It will be considered at the IAAF council meeting next Wednesday," Sweden's Carl-Gustav Tollmar, head of the IAAF Technical Committee, said.

The German city of Stuttgart will stage the fourth World Athletics Championships in 1993 following a vote by the IAAF Wednesday.

IAAF council member Istvan Gyulai of Hungary told a news conference that Stuttgart was the only candidate to host the 1993 championships while the Swedish city of Gothenburg was the only candidate for the 1995 competition.

In a separate development, pole vault world record holder Sergei Bubka flew in to Tokyo with a group of Soviet athletes Wednesday, ending doubts over

Soviet participation in the World Athletics Championships which start Saturday.

Bubka, widely expected to win his Third World pole vault title, was one of six Soviet athletes on an Aeroflot flight from Moscow.

The rest of the Soviet team, currently training in Vladivostok, are expected in Japan later Thursday at the latest.

There had been fears that the Soviet team would be unable to take part because of the political instability following Monday's overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

But Soviet Athletic Federation President Igor Ter-Ovanesyan told a news conference in Tokyo Tuesday he had contacted Moscow and the Soviet embassy in Japan and was sure the team would be able to take part.

The Soviet team of 136 athletes and officials is the third largest after the United States and Germany.

Bubka told Japanese television shortly after arriving: "There was no problem leaving the country."

Asked about Mr. Gorbachev's perestroika policy, he said: "I supported it as a whole. If there's a clash in Moscow, it will probably lead to civil war."

German women eclipsed at swimming championships

ATHENS (R) — After two decades of domination in the days of the east German state, German women swimmers failed to land a place in either of Wednesday's women's finals at the European Championships.

Troubled by illness and far from the force they were of old, they were reduced to the ranks of also-rans left to dispute the consolation B finals.

Defending champion Manuela Stellmach managed only 11th place overall in the 200 metres freestyle heats, while Kerstin Kielgass, fastest in Europe this year, had to pull out because of illness.

Kielgass, a European relay gold medalist in 1985, got up on Tuesday after four days in bed suffering from a high temperature and a stomach upset, a German swimming source said.

Her absence cost the now-united German team the gold medal in Tuesday's 4x200 freestyle relay as Heike Friedrich, a pale shadow of the world and Olympic champion she was, lost the lead and fully six seconds overall to Denmark's anchor swimmer Mette Jacobsen.

Stellmach, Kielgass's room mate, and also been confined to bed for two days with a high temperature which may have been caused by excessive air-conditioning in their room.

Jana Doeberis, 15, a medalist at last January's World Championships in Perth, missed the 200 metres breaststroke final when she finished third in the last heat and ninth overall — one place and 0.10 seconds away from qualification.

Doerries, an ex-east German like her fellow sufferers, has had health problems since Perth where she won silver in the 100 breaststroke and bronze in the 200.

Western German Alexandra Haenel, the team's other women's 200 breaststroke swimmer, never made it to Athens after injuring her thigh in a cycling accident shortly before the team's departure.

After years in the shadow of the women swimmers, it was left to the men to uphold German honour, with Patric Kuehl leading qualifiers for the 100 metres individual medley final and fellow former east German Nils Rudolph second overall in the 100 butterfly heats. Germany also topped men's 4x200 freestyle relay qualifiers.

Kuehl, who won bronze in 1987 and silver in 1989, staked his claim for gold in the absence of world and Olympic champion Tamas Darnyi of Hungary, winning the opening heat in four minutes 20.70 seconds.

Ex-East German team mate Christian Gessner secured the third-best final qualifying time of 4:23.11, winning the last heat by a whisker from Italy's Olympic bronze medalist Stefano Battistelli. Italy's Luca Sacchi was second-fastest overall.

Rudolph won his 100 butterfly medal in 54.78, 0.13 seconds ahead of Spain's Martin Lopez Zubero, who broke the world record in the world 200 backstroke event last week.

Dutch player qualifies for world chess semis

BRUSSELS (R) — Jan Timman of the Netherlands became the first player to qualify for the semifinals of the World Chess Championship when he drew with the ex-Soviet Swiss Viktor Korchnoi in Brussels.

Timman played against Kor-

chnoi's Sicilian defence, gaining an advantage by the 15th move.

Korchnoi took full advantage of Timman's subsequent passive play, and had turned the tables by time control when he blundered. A draw was agreed on move 45.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 23, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This first day of Virgo finds the Moon squaring Pluto stirring emotions making people uneasy and revealing secrets. Jealousy is likely over the least likely thing so avoid getting into an unresolvable position.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A fine day for you to show that you do value the good will of business or personal contacts by some compliment or other form of expression.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make a point to get some new course of action in motion that can gain you the good will of those who are able to aid you to have much more.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you find that most everyone with whom you have any sort of contact is willing to go along with some personal things that you do want.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Listen to what those who are in the know have to privately suggest to you and you then will be able to make big headway towards preparations for the future.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think out a course whereby your friends and personal contacts will be more aware that you like them and are willing to go along with their ideas.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you are able to gain the headway that means the most to you so be sure to get in touch with powerful persons and let them know what you have in mind.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Now you find it is possible for you to show that you are the one who does value and appreciate the good will of new admirers who

have paid you little attention before.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can now make fine arrangements to handle any problems at all of whatever nature whether business or personal by your own intelligence.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can sit down with that associate now and come to a whole new understanding that can bring you much more harmony in your future plans.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have some pretty ingenious plan whereby you are able to gain the support of fellow associates who have been reluctant to give you what you need for success.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the moment for you to show you have the patience and the interest to do what those of whom you are fond expect of you so be truly cooperative.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think out a plan to give you best thought to how you can make your family happier and bring to them the interests that can engross them while you are absent.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he has deep seated urge to do those things that will bring you more cooperation for this child from others. Teach them to maintain an even keel instead of ricocheting from being considerate and pleasant to an individual that is angry and demanding. Expect this chart to work with the public.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
BY TAMAR WURSCH
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 4 3
♥ 10 Q 10 5
♦ 10 4
♣ A 6 3 2

WEST EAST
♠ J 6 5 ♠ Q 7 3
♥ K J 8 4 2 ♥ Q 7 3
♦ 5 3 2 ♦ K 8 7 6
♣ J ♣ K 8 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 8 7 2
♥ Void
♦ A Q J 9
♣ Q 10 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♣ Dbl Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♣ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.
Preemptive action is a two-way sword. While it can goad the opponents to impossible heights, it sometimes blunders the play for declarer.

West's preempt is typical of the loose style in tournament bridge — after all, it doesn't cost coin of the realm if you go down many hundreds of points. With so much wasted values in hearts and no great fit for spades, North's four-heart cue-bid is difficult to comprehend. And once having cue-bid, North should

have shown only one ace when responding to Blackwood to keep the auction from getting out of hand. South's bidding is also enigmatic — the long suit wasn't good enough to insist on a spade contract opposite unknown support.

West led the jack of clubs and declarer realized he was faced with an almost impossible assignment. Without the information provided by the bidding, declarer might well have allowed the jack of clubs to ride round to the queen, relying on the diamond finesse and a lucky position in trumps to bring home the bacon.

In the circumstances, however, the jack of clubs was quite likely to be a singleton, so declarer rose with the ace and ran the ten of diamonds. When that held, the diamond finesse was repeated before drawing two rounds of trumps.

Leaving the master trump outstanding, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds before leading the last diamond. West was a goner. If the defender ruffed, the forced heart return would give declarer a free finesse, enabling the two clubs to be shifted from the closed hand. But discarding a heart proved to be no better. Declarer ruffed the diamond in dummy, returned to hand by ruffing a low heart and then threw West in with the high trump to force a heart return and allow the finesse. Who lives by the sword, dies by the sword.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 22, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look at whatever is holding you back and either get it in perfect working order or else eliminate it so you are free of it to do better things.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is your time to spend your time with your friends as much as possible and to deepen any sort of casual acquaintanceship you may have.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make a point to show that you are the one who does understand what bigwigs expect of you as a good citizen and reap the rewards of conscientious civic understanding.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You need for more understanding from one who thinks differently can be gained if you make a point to study his views of what to do.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your moment to actually pay those bill you have incurred and to show you have a deep sense of obligation and awareness of your duties.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever your partners desire of you should be taken very seriously and you would be wise to do something definite about getting what they want.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have every kind of interest in making your surroundings much

more attractive and you can also bring to the fore your own charm in new apparel.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your goal now is to make certain you please your close companions by some entertainment, amusement or whatever they get the greatest joy from.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do the little things that will delight members of your own family or household and let them be aware that you are thinking of them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have so many errands to do and its such a good day to get them in back of you that you can start out early and continue until all done.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have all kinds of projects to be done on your property or your budget so lose no time but get at such and increase holdings and eliminate waste.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You now have some personal trials to do that are highly intimate and personal in their nature so get on with doing them and show you are able to please usual contacts.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

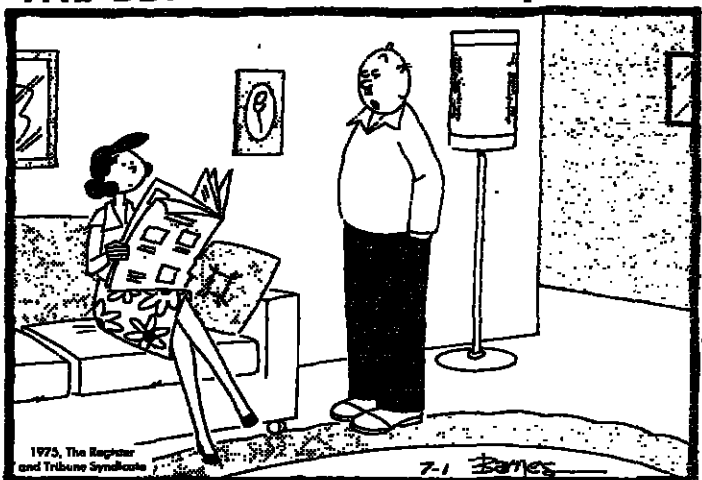
1- Wedding present! Birth Stone

World Resources: Dagan & Co. Inc.
Jewellers: Gertig

Amman: Rio De Janeiro
Amman: Amman Hotel: 5th floor

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"Of course I'm right — mutual funds are monies deposited in joint bank accounts!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UGLID

SYSEM

PLUXED

BOGTLE

WHAT THE BONDS OF MARRIAGE SOMETIMES ARE.

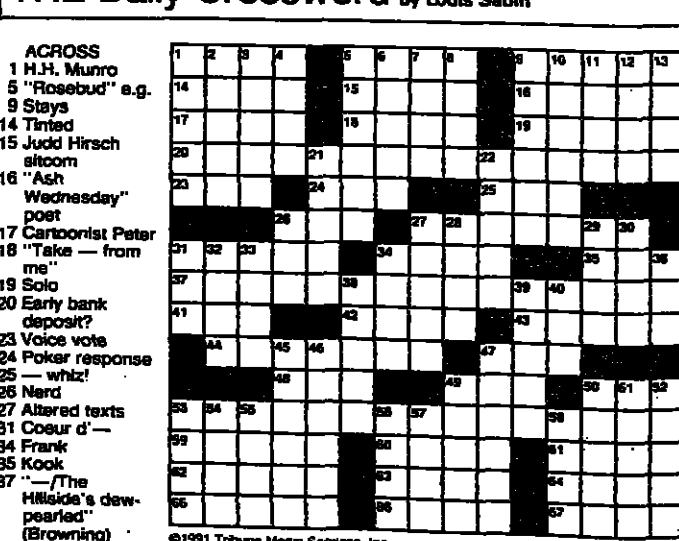
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: "OOOOO—OOOOO"

Yesterday's Jumble: AUDIT GASSY TINGLE SLEIGH

Answer: The secret of his success — STILL IS (a secret)

THE Daily Crossword by Louis Sabini



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. H.H. Munro
2. "Redoubt" e.g.
3. Slay
4. Tinted
5. Judd Hirsch sitcom
6. Ash
7. Wednesday post
8. Cartoonist Peter
9. "Take — from me"
10. Early bank deposit?
11. Voice vote
12. Poker response
13. "whiz!"
14. Altered texts
15. Coeur d'—
16. Frank
17. Kook
18. "The Hilda's dew-pearl" (Browning)
19. Lulu fare
20. Pitcher
21. Lovers' meeting
22. Makes safe
23. Scratch
24. Inlet
25. Soda
26. Neck warmer
27. De
28. Haviland/Boyer firm
29. The and
30. Substantial
31. Part of A.D.
32. Of certain grass
33. Grip in
34. On the rocks
35. Give to get
36. Afrikaans
37. Fleeced
38. Factory tool
39. Party snacks
40. Ideal place
41. Together
42. Social success
43. Chin, society
44. Joanne d'Arc et al.
45. Certain
46. Immigrant
47. Bond or Smart
48. Landers or
49. Julian
50. Of certain parts
51. Church parts
52. Supper e.g.
53. Begridge
54. Union income
55. Elec. unit
56. Author Anita
57. Canal
58. Bad guy
59. Razing supply
60. Bell's opera
61. Hackneyed
62. Screw up
63. Sponged
64. Sophisticated
65. Computer
66. Gustav
67. Condition
68. Gambling game
69. Proprietor
70. Positive note
71. Dartsive sound
72. Tents were his line
73. — amia te
74. your
75. Group
76. 57 Km of
77. 800
78. Platform

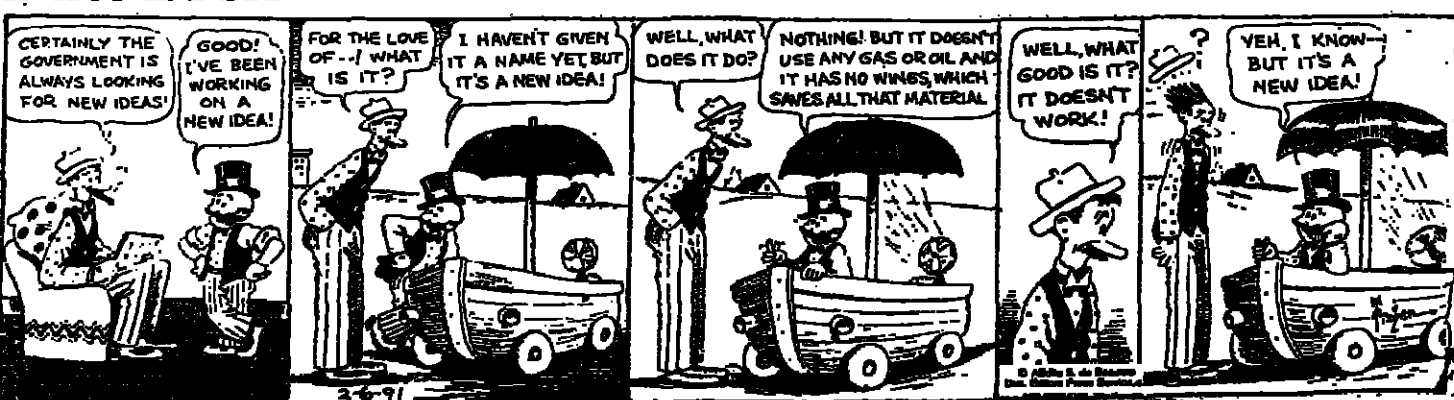
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.6482	1.6520
Deutsche Mark	1.7955	1.7855
Swiss Franc	1.5420	1.5407
French Franc	6.0895	6.0745
Japanese Yen	157.10	157.18
European Currency Unit	1.1440	1.1480

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.55	5.56	5.65	5.87
Sterling Pound	10.75	10.65	10.50	10.43
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.12	9.31	9.57
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.81	7.75	7.66
French Franc	9.25	9.43	9.50	9.50
Japanese Yen	7.21	7.21	6.93	6.62
European Currency Unit	9.55	9.81	9.87	10.00

Gold

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	356.25	6.95	Silver	5.95	.095

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.692	.694
Sterling Pound	1.1356	1.1453
Deutsche Mark	.3651	.3676
Swiss Franc	.4475	.4500
French Franc	.1136	.1142
Japanese Yen	.5039	.5064
Dutch Guilder	.3408	.3425
Swedish Krona	.1064	.1069
Italian Lira	.0516	.0519
Belgian Franc	.01869	.01878

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Libanese Lira	.0760	.0780
Saudi Riyal	.1840	.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1875	.1886
Qatar Riyal	.2050	.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7650
UAE Dirham	.1875	.1886
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4100	1.4300

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	19/8/1991 Close	20/8/1991 Close
All-Share	108.08	107.56
Banking Sector	107.15	109.76
Insurance Sector	117.79	117.99
Industry Sector	115.56	114.68
Services Sector	126.84	126.66

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6540/50	U.S. dollar	1.1418/23
One U.S. dollar	1.7800/20	Canadian dollar	1.7800/20
	2.0040/60	Deutsche mark	1.5415/25
	36.75/80	Dutch guilder	6.0525/75
	1328/1329	Swiss franc	6.9710/70
	137.10/20	French franc	6.8960/20
	6.4850/10	Italian lire	355.70/356.20
	6.9710/70	Japanese yen	
	6.8960/20	Swedish crown	
		Norwegian crown	
		Danish crown	
		U.S. dollars	

Soviet turmoil could mean big demand for Iraqi oil

NEW YORK (R) — Iraq, banned from selling oil since its invasion of Kuwait, could find buyers clamouring if supplies are disrupted by turmoil in the Soviet Union, analysts said Tuesday.

The world is facing a scarcity of oil production capacity as winter approaches, and analysts say Iraq is one of the few producers that could fill a shortage caused by strikes or civil war in the Soviet Union.

"The irony is that the only country with spare capacity is Iraq," said Mike Barry of Energy Market Consultants in London. "While the world's largest oil producer, has been falling for years, experts noted that the upheaval following the ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday threatens to disrupt exports prior to the winter, when refiners build supplies for cold weather demand."

Siberian miners walked off their jobs Monday in response to a call by Russian leader Boris Yeltsin for a general strike and analysts said walkouts could spread to other sectors. So far, oil workers have stayed on the job. "If oil workers honour the call for a strike, there could be a

U.S. businesses put Soviet ventures on hold

NEW YORK (R) — American business executives say Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's abrupt removal from office shows why U.S. companies have been so cautious about investing in the Soviet Union and puts on hold indefinitely plans for future ventures.

"Prospects for any major new business investments in the Soviet Union appear relatively slim," said Jeffrey Burt, partner in charge of Soviet ventures for Arnold Porter, a Washington law firm.

Mr. Gorbachev's campaign of perestroika, or restructuring, attracted plenty of interest among Western capitalists, but only a few made major financial commitments during his six-year tenure, largely because of the country's shaky economic and political situation. Most U.S. companies with big ventures in the Soviet Union were in place well before Mr. Gorbachev rose to power and have limited their financial risk by minimising their capital investment.

Pepsico Inc., for example, opened its first bottling franchise in the Soviet Union in 1974 and last year signed a 10-year, \$3 billion deal under which it will continue to supply soft drink syrup in exchange for Stolichnaya vodka.

"It is clearly too early to know what, if any, impact this will have on our business," said Ken Ross, director of Pepsico.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — With no fresh bad news out of Moscow in the aftermath of Monday's coup the Nikkei average recovered 364.54 points to 22,051.60.

FRANKFURT — Shares surged in the closing minutes of trade after reports that members of the Soviet hardline committee were trying to leave Moscow by air. The DAX Index ended 43.89 points or 2.9 per cent higher at 1,570.82.

ZURICH — Shares rose sharply in busy trade to close just off the day's high after signs that the Soviet coup had failed. The SPI Index rose 31.5 to 1,097.0.

PARIS — Shares surged on news from Moscow. Blue Chips clawed back almost all the ground they lost on Monday. The CAC-40 Index rose 67.30 to 1,792.87.

LONDON — News that the Soviet crisis may be ending sent shares sharply higher but profit-taking stopped the market short of recovering everything lost on Monday. The FTSE Index closed 47.4 higher at 2,601.9.

NEW YORK — Stocks were steady at sharply higher levels in late morning. Hopes that the Soviet coup may be crumbling continued to buoy the market. The Dow was up 48 at 2,961.

Soviet crisis

stirs worries over recovery in eastern Germany

BERLIN (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev's fall from power has put eastern Germany's economic recovery in doubt, since the region's industry relies heavily on orders from the Soviet Union.

"A shadow has certainly fallen over the east German economy," said Peter Sigmund, a trade expert at the IAW research institute in Berlin.

Former East Germany's economy collapsed last year when it was merged with the west's in the run-up to unification.

Its slow recovery is due in large part to huge injections of government aid, including generous export credits for trade with the Soviet Union.

Economists estimate that between 200,000 and 500,000 jobs in eastern Germany still depend on trade with Moscow.

The region can ill-afford to lose jobs. It already has a real unemployment level of nearly 40 per cent due to a shake-out of inefficient state-owned companies as they adapt to a market economy.

But the jobs would be vulnerable if Bonn were to freeze export guarantees because of the new Soviet crisis.

Battle for BCCI in Jordan heats up

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The race to acquire the Jordan operations of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) has been narrowed to five Jordanian institutions, with three of them in pursuit of the bonus of the commercial banking licence involved in the deal.

Eight Jordanian banks and institutions were invited to bid for the three branches of the BCCI in Jordan, but three of them bowed out last week saying they were not interested.

That left two commercial banks — the Jordan National Bank and the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) — and three investment institutions — the Jordan Investment Bank, the Union Bank for Investments and the Business Bank — in the field.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), which took over BCCI Jordan in early July and appointed a panel to supervise the local operations of the internationally troubled bank, has set Aug. 25 as the deadline for submission of offers for the three BCCI branches in the Kingdom.

The five left in the field are studying an auditors' report on the status of the BCCI in Jordan. The report is described as highly positive by sources familiar with the document who say that it has clearly underlined the sound

financial status of BCCI in Jordan.

"The sound position of the bank is behind non-Jordanian Arab interest in acquiring BCCI Jordan," said an official source. "But in all probability the bank will be sold to a local party."

While the Jordan National Bank and ABC already have commercial banking licences, any successful bidder from the other three in the field will have the additional benefit of the commercial licence of the BCCI, banking circles noted.

"Definitely the offers of the three investment corporations will be higher than that of the commercial banks," said one senior banking executive.

One of the essential components of any bid, as sought by the CBJ, is an undertaking that none of the 90 or so employees at the BCCI branches would be dismissed during the first one year and that all their employment benefits are guaranteed under the acquisition deal.

The CBJ, which has been steadily following a policy of trying to limit the number of commercial banks in Jordan, is known to favour selling the BCCI operations to an already existing Jordanian bank.

"Only if none of the five comes up with an acceptable offer, the CBJ will consider its option of selling BCCI to either a new Jordanian entity or a foreign

buyer," said a banking source.

Non-Jordanian Arab approaches to acquire BCCI have been put in the backburner by the CBJ pending the outcome of its first option offer to local banks," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

Bankers credit the CBJ for having foreseen the international collapse of the BCCI and ordering BCCI Jordan in April this year to transfer all of its foreign exchange accounts to the CBJ, thus ensuring BCCI liquidity and protecting public funds in the Kingdom regardless of its deep troubles elsewhere.

Close to JD 15 million have already been withdrawn from the BCCI Jordan accounts under limited withdrawals permitted by the CBJ since the takeover.

Total deposits remaining with BCCI Jordan are worth around JD 50 million — including foreign currency accounts — and advances and loans due to the bank total JD 21 million.

BCCI officials say that the bank's liabilities are adequately covered on the assets side and that the outstanding dues to the bank carry strong collateral and guarantees.

International BCCI liabilities do not cover the bank's Jordan operations and assets under the standing CBJ regulations applicable to all commercial banks in the Kingdom regardless of their ownership or operations abroad.

Soviet bank faces problems due to Western panic over coup

MGSCOW (R) — The Soviet bank for foreign economic affairs, responsible for servicing the country's debt, said Wednesday it faced problems because of unjustified Western panic over this week's political turmoil.

A day after issuing a statement assuring creditors it was fulfilling debt repayment obligations, Vneshekonombank said foreign financial institutions were jeopardising its finances.

"Tanks or no tanks, we have not stopped our operations or declared any moratorium," a bank spokesman said.

The Soviet Union has a foreign debt of about \$60 billion and service requirements this year have been put at about \$12 billion.

Vneshekonombank has a reputation as a prompt and reliable payer. But the country's overall creditworthiness has suffered due to months of political and economic chaos and a problem with non-payment of commercial debt.

Monday's removal of President Mikhail Gorbachev by a group of hardline communists has alarmed foreign bankers and investors,

who in recent months were growing more optimistic about the prospects for market reforms.

Vneshekonombank spokesman Vladimir Sterikov stressed that the bank was continuing to fulfil its obligations. "We try to distance ourselves from political activities," he said.

He repeated allegations made in Tuesday's statement that some Western banks and financial institutions were blocking payments into the Soviet bank's accounts in Europe.

"The banks themselves know who is responsible. What can we do about it? We cannot stand by them with machine-guns and force them to meet their obligations," he said.

Mr. Sterikov said the problem was due to fear of what was going on inside the Soviet Union and a misunderstanding of Vneshekonombank, which he said was also a commercial bank in addition to performing the function of state debt servicing.

"Because of some kind of fear, an incorrect interpretation of these events on our banking activity, they have blocked their activity, creating certain difficulties for us. And then they will say — Vneshekonombank is not paying," he pointed out.

The Soviet central bank Gosbank said Tuesday that it was suspending the sale of hard currency to private citizens travelling abroad.

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WORLD RESOURCES

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Show: 3:30, 6:45, 10:30 p.m.

PRINCIPAL

Show: 5:10, 8:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

Sean Connery & Christopher Lambert...in

HIGH LANDER II

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

NUOUM

Tel: 675571

To Be Opened Soon

Nabil Mashini Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

FAST FOR WORD

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Soviet troops seize Baltic TV stations; workers prepare strike

TALLINN, USSR (Agencies) — Soviet troops in the Baltics seized TV stations and transmitters early Wednesday, and workers in Estonia prepared to strike in protest of the coup by Kremlin hardliners, officials and news reports said.

The attacks on the media came just hours after Estonia's parliament late Tuesday affirmed its independence from the Soviet Union.

High-ranking Baltic officials were stationing themselves outside the Soviet Union, ready to establish exile governments if the Soviet army shut down their parliament.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in Wednesday's military action.

A report Tuesday said two people in Latvia were wounded by Soviet troops, but gave no other details. On Monday, the driver of a minivan was reported shot and killed by soldiers in Latvia after driving into an off-limits zone.

Soviet forces Wednesday seized Estonia's TV station and main transmitting antenna, the republic's Foreign Ministry reported. All broadcasts stopped at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT). TV Director Mart Shiman told the Estonian News Agency (ETA).

Worker collectives in the republic said employees would not report for work in response to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's appeal for a nationwide strike. Tia Raudma, a spokeswoman for the republic's Foreign Ministry, said by telephone.

Troops seized Latvia's TV station Monday after hardliners in Moscow ousted Mikhail Gorbachev. They disarmed the prime minister's guards late Tuesday

and seized the republic's central telephone office early Wednesday, according to a Lithuanian parliament official.

Soldiers also took over a TV transmitter in Siauliai, a city in Lithuania, Radio Estonia reported.

Most communication between Estonia and the two other Baltic republics was lost Tuesday, and communication with points outside the region was difficult.

Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis, in an address on Latvian independent radio Wednesday, told citizens he was still in control, said a telexed statement from the government.

Barricaded radio studios in the centre of Tallinn were still in the hands of Estonia authorities around dawn, and Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar broadcast an appeal for citizens to gather and defend them.

In another radio broadcast, President Arnold Rutel appealed to Estonians not to provoke the soldiers. Mr. Rutel's aide, Raul Malk, said the president had spoken with Baltic military commanders during the night and was assured that soldiers would not attack people if the military was not provoked.

Estonia's parliament late Tuesday voted 69-0 to reassert the republic's independence, claiming that since the coup it was impossible to negotiate with the Soviet authorities. Fourteen parliament members walked out before the vote and 21 were absent.

"We had the choice of either living like slaves or acting ourselves," said Parliament Speaker Ulo Nuijs.

Estonian Foreign Minister Lemart Meri said in Stockholm on Tuesday that Baltic republic

leaders were preparing exile governments in case they are toppled at home.

According to Finnish television, Algirdas Saudargas, Lithuania's foreign minister, was designated to head a government in exile. He was in Poland meeting with diplomats Wednesday, the Lithuanian representation office in Warsaw said.

Gen. Pyodur Kuzmina, the top Soviet military commander in the Baltic region, has declared himself the de facto ruler of the three republics.

Estonia claims it has been independent since 1918 but occupied by the Soviet Union since 1940, so it says it does not need to issue a formal declaration of independence.

After January's bloody crackdown by the Red Army on independence and democracy moves by the Baltics, the republics agreed to move gradually out of Soviet control through negotiations with Moscow.

But the hardline regime that ousted Mr. Gorbachev has moved swiftly to isolate the region.

Soviet troops disarmed Latvian Prime Minister Godmanis' guards and arrested his security chief Tuesday night in the continuing crackdown in the secessionist Baltic republics, according to a Latvian spokesman in Moscow.

An earlier report from a Latvian official in Stockholm said Mr. Godmanis was arrested, but a duty officer at the Latvian mission in Moscow, Martin Squinsh, denied the report. He said the mission had confirmed early Wednesday that the military had left the Latvian government building in Riga.

It was impossible to confirm

either report because of a lack of communication with Riga, the Latvian capital.

Mr. Squinsh said that Mr. Godmanis received an anonymous call ordering him to leave his office Tuesday night, but Mr. Godmanis ignored it.

Just before midnight, Gen. Pyodur Kuzmina, Soviet commander of the Baltic military district, called Mr. Godmanis with a request that he surrender "unnecessary weapons," and a short time later men in two armoured personnel carriers disarmed all of Mr. Godmanis' guards and arrested their chief, who was not identified.

The Latvian Information Office representative in Stockholm, Imants Gross, had said Soviet forces occupied the government building. He said he based his information on telephone reports from the Latvian and Lithuanian foreign ministries.

Tanks surround Moldovan capital — premier

The prime minister of Moldova said tanks had begun surrounding the capital of his republic and he would call for civil disobedience if the new Soviet leadership challenged the authority of his government.

Prime Minister Valery Muravsky, in an interview published in the French daily Le Figaro Wednesday, said the tanks had not yet entered Kishinyov and people had begun building barricades.

Mr. Muravsky said he did not recognise the emergency committee that deposed President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday.

Yugoslav leaders continue talks on future

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslavia's quarrelling leaders resumed talks Wednesday on the future of their crumbling Balkan federation, as mortar fire continued to rock a city in the rebel Republic of Croatia.

Negotiations by presidents and premiers from Yugoslavia's six republics and the eight-member federal presidency resumed Wednesday on how the government can function until an agreement on the country's future structure is reached, the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported Wednesday.

Federal Premier Ante Markovic submitted a report on "the functioning of the system during the coming three months."

Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar informed the leaders about events in the Soviet Union, where Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was overthrown by a coup earlier this week, Tanjug said without elaboration.

Yugoslavia's relations with the Soviet Union are cordial after the Communist camp long before Soviet-backed governments fell all over Eastern Europe in 1989.

In Yugoslavia, the unrest continued in Croatia.

One policeman was killed and six civilians wounded when more than 100 mortar shells fell overnight and early Wednesday on Osijek, near the Serbian border.

The mayor said, Zlatko Kramaric told a news conference that mortar fire was continuing sporadically.

Surrounding Croatian villages and the nearby town of Daruvar also were targeted by Serb militias, he added.

Osijek's leaders cut water, electricity and food supplies to federal army barracks in the region, because "the army is considered an aggressor," Mr. Kramaric said.

Toxic cloud hangs over Melbourne after fire

MELBOURNE (R) — Firemen fought a raging chemical blaze in Melbourne's port area Wednesday, after lightning struck a storage tank which belched clouds of toxic smoke into the afternoon sky.

Authorities said the blaze, which forced the evacuation of hundreds of people from factories and ships within a 10 square kilometre area, was under control, but a billowing cloud of toxic smoke hung over Melbourne.

They said one firefighter was taken to hospital and nine others were treated at the scene after being overcome by chemical fumes. No other injuries were reported, but police broadcast radio warnings urging people to stay indoors.

"The smoke is toxic and it's covered quite a large area of the city," said a police spokeswoman. "It's going to be a few days before we know how many people were affected."

She said the smoke was covering an 80 square kilometre area of the Melbourne sky.

Port of Melbourne authority spokeswoman Andy Gash said between six and eight tanks had either blown apart or were damaged.

Boeing says O-ring bits can deploy reverser on 767

SEATTLE (R) — The Boeing Co. said Monday that a fractured piece of an O-ring could accidentally deploy thrust reversers of the type used on a Lambda Air 767 that crashed in Thailand in May, killing all 222 aboard.

Boeing spokesman Randy Harrison said that the company's engineers had succeeded in making a thrust reverser deploy by inserting "a sliver of the O-ring" inside a device known as a Direction Control Valve (DCV). The O-ring is the only part in the valve that is inside a protective filter, he said.

Mr. Harrison said that while the test resulted from an investigation into the May 26 Lambda Air crash, no evidence has been found which would specifically link the Lambda crash to an O-ring failure.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Friday ordered operators of certain Boeing 767 aircraft to immediately deactivate those jets' thrust reversers, which help reverse engine thrust to slow an aircraft on the ground.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said last month there was evidence the reverser may have deployed on the left engine of the Lambda Air



Croatia's leadership accuses the army of siding with Serb militias. It claimed heavy mortar shelling that killed at least four people Tuesday came from a nearby army training base.

Federal generals say their troops are in Croatia to separate warring Serbs and Croats.

Mr. Kramaric said he had received a letter from a Serbian commando group threatening an all-out attack against Osijek unless the city of 130,000 is evacuated within 24 hours.

Tanjung reported fierce fighting in Pakrac, 110 kilometres south-east of Zagreb during the early morning hours.

A Croatian Interior Ministry statement said that since Aug. 7, when the federal presidency called a truce in Croatia, 13 Croatian security force members, 27 Serb militiamen and 22 civilians have died in 158 armed clashes.

Ninety-three security force members, seven Serbs and 24 civilians had been injured in skirmishes, the statement said.

Since August 1990, 128 Croatian police and guardsmen have been killed and 368 wounded. Sixty-three civilians have died and 144 were wounded, the statement said.

Negotiations on Yugoslavia's future were interrupted on June 25 by Croatia's and Slovenia's declarations of independence.

The two republics declared independence after feuding republican leaders failed to reach agreement on the country's future. Freely elected governments in Croatia and Slovenia envisaged

a loose association of states. Communist Serbia and its ally Montenegro favour maintaining strong central control.

On Tuesday, the leaders of the six republics and the eight-member federal presidency under the chairmanship of Croat Stipe Mesic agreed to base future talks on the understanding that each nation has the right to self-determination and secession and that internal borders cannot be changed unilaterally or by force, Tanjug said.

Serbia says that if Croatia secedes from Yugoslavia, it cannot take along territories largely inhabited by the republic's 600,000 ethnic Serbs who make up about 12 per cent of Croatia's population.

The meeting also called on warring parties in Croatia to cease hostilities and hold to a ceasefire declared by the presidency Aug. 7, Tanjug reported.

On Wednesday, the leaders were to begin drafting a political agreement on the functioning of the federal system in the interim.

The agreement to continue talks raised fresh hopes that a solution could be found that would end fighting which has claimed more than 250 lives since the two breakaway republics declared independence.

Meanwhile, a Serb guerrilla leader has been quoted as saying his militia is cooperating with the federal army in the central Adriatic coast of Croatia, and suggested a joint operation to seize a major port city.

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Seoul urges Moscow to avoid bloodshed

SEOUL (R) — South Korea has urged the new administration in the Soviet Union to avoid bloodshed, but declined to join Western nations and Japan in suspending aid in protest against the toppling of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The statement Wednesday by Information Minister Choi Chang-Yoon, South Korea's first official comment on Mr. Gorbachev's fall, conspicuously failed to follow the country's Western allies in condemning or even criticising Monday's coup by a group of Kremlin hardliners.

"The government of the Republic of Korea cannot but be deeply concerned about the state of affairs that has been developing in the Soviet Union since Aug. 19 and is closely watching the developments," the statement said.

"The government will make decisions concerning the implementation of the economic cooperation programme for the Soviet Union after studying further developments in that country," the statement said.

The government hopes the situation in the Soviet Union will be normalised as quickly as possible in a peaceful manner, without violence or bloodshed," the statement said.

South Korea and the Soviet Union established full diplomatic relations last September. In January, they agreed a \$3 billion aid package for Moscow, including soft loans and trade credits.

Seoul has so far sent a \$500 million loan to Moscow and is scheduled to offer an \$800 million trade credit by the end of this year.

Officials fear the restoration of hardline Communist leadership in Moscow might give confidence to rival North Korea, one of the world's last remaining Stalinist states.

Gorbachev, reviled by North Korea as a traitor to socialism, had pressed Pyongyang to negotiate with South Korea.

"We may see North Korea taking a much tougher approach," a Seoul-based Western diplomat said.

South Korea put its 640,000-member armed forces on alert Wednesday as shock waves from the ouster of Mr. Gorbachev reverberated down the Korean peninsula, one of the cold war's last outposts.

COLUMN

Dutch TV cancels film on Gorbachev murder plot

AMSTERDAM (R) — The Dutch broadcasting company TROS has said it had cancelled the showing of a fictitious film about a murder attempt on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. "In the circumstances, we felt it would be in bad taste," a spokesman said. The English film Red King, White Knight, first shown on British television two months ago, was due to have been broadcast Saturday night.

Soviet musicians vow not to play at home again

MADRID (R) — The members of a Moscow Chamber Orchestra based in Spain vowed Tuesday never to play in the Soviet Union again if the coup which toppled President Mikhail Gorbachev is allowed to prosper. "We feel the way I imagine they felt when World War II began for the Soviet Union," Vladimir Spivakov, director of the Moscow Virtuoso Orchestra, told Spanish national television. The orchestra has been based in Spain's northern Asturias region since last November, but its musicians said they had all planned to return to the Soviet Union one day. The musicians said they had voted unanimously never to play at home again unless Mr. Gorbachev is restored to power. Many sensed a danger of civil war. "It is possible, it is possible," said violinist Grigori Nisodobova. "The majority of our people want to change their lives, but not with this new power."

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Dutch cheese town names street after Gorbachev

AMSTERDAM (R) — The Dutch town of Gouda, famed for its giant cheeses, decided Tuesday to name a street after ousted Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. His name will take its place in an area of Gouda where all the streets are named after celebrated freedom fighters, the Dutch News Agency (ANP) quoted the town council as saying.

Computerised testing of doctors may be on the horizon

CHICAGO (R) — Computers and simulated patients may soon be used to determine the competency of veteran doctors to diagnose and treat patients, a U.S. medical journal reported Tuesday. "Physicians need not see this as 'big brother' watching over them, but rather an opportunity to take responsibility for an assessment process that is fair and feasible and points to remediation when necessary," Donald Langley, a physician with the American Board of Medical Specialties, wrote in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association. Computer simulations and patient models already are in use to test the knowledge and diagnostic skills of medical students. Mr. Langley wrote that similar methods could be created to test experienced doctors using computer simulations of sample illnesses for phony patients. Besides rating doctors on their ability to heal, the tests could reveal information about the time and expense involved in diagnosis and treatment.

Death row inmates want to be fathers

BOYDTON, U.S. (AP) — A death row inmate wants his sperm frozen and used to inseminate his girlfriend, saying the state's right to kill him doesn't mean it can end his bloodline. Joseph Roger O'Dell, 49, faces execution for the 1985 rape and murder of a Virginia Beach secretary. He asked the state supreme court to allow him and fellow death row inmate Joseph Savino, 32, to preserve their sperm. The court denied the request, calling it frivolous. Prison officials were still considering it. Because his execution would end his bloodline, Mr. O'Dell said not allowing him to have his sperm frozen constitutes cruel and unusual punishment. Mr. O'Dell's girlfriend said she has given permission to be named as the legal recipient. "We love each other and we should have the right to have a child together," said Sherry, who asked her last name not be used. "I don't want to lose the opportunity just because they take his life." Mr. Savino was sentenced to death in 1988 for the murder of his male lover. He said he began discussing parenthood with his girlfriend this year.

VOA beams 'straight' news to Soviets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Soviets are getting news about the developments in their country from the United States — via the Voice of America and Radio Liberty.

The two stations, funded by the U.S. government, are beaming almost continuous broadcasts to all regions of the Soviet Union and neither has been jammed, officials said. The stations were regularly jammed in the cold war era.

Based on massive amounts of mail and other information gathered over the years, VOA estimates its audience in the Soviet Union at 25 million to 30 million, spokesman Joe O'Connell said.

In times of crisis, such as during the 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in China, listeners under authoritarian regimes tend to tune in constantly to VOA, O'Connell said.

In the Soviet Union, they usually switch from VOA to Radio Liberty to the World Service of the BBC "to validate the information they hear," he said.

Because the Soviet coup leaders have shut down virtually all but the official news media since taking power early Monday, the foreign radio stations have resumed the vital importance they held for Soviet citizens under the strict Communist controls of the

cold war.

The relaxation of state control over the Soviet media and the creation of non-government radio stations and news services had somewhat reduced the dependence on VOA and Radio Liberty over the past two years.

But VOA officials said there was little doubt, based on past experience, that Soviets were tuning in to foreign radio broadcasts for their information about the coup.

VOA has dropped most of its entertainment programmes, focusing almost exclusively on news, interviews and background reports, said O'Connell.

Defections and hesitation leave Soviet military an uncertain tool

MOSCOW (AP) — Several high-ranking Soviet military officers were reported Wednesday to be resisting or staying neutral in the coup by hardline Communists, a sign of weakness that could spell trouble for the new rulers.

Added to defections to the side of Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin, an inability to squelch dissidents and the suspect loyalties of recruits and junior officers, it could mean a breakdown in what has been the most disciplined part of a sharply divided society.

The neutrality of military authorities in Leningrad, the Soviet Union's second-largest city, appeared to have kept soldiers and armour out of the streets there.

The local district commander, Col.-Gen. Viktor Samsonov, ordered two columns of armoured vehicles to stop far from Leningrad early Tuesday, reformist Mayor Anatoly Sobchak said.

Independent Radio Moscow Echo reported that the commander of the Baltic fleet based in Leningrad, Adm. Vladimir Chernavayev, had pledged not to take military action on behalf of the new rulers.

The same station reported that the Commander of the Volga Military District, Gen. Albert Makashov, had come out in support of Mr. Yeltsin.

Gen. Makashov ran against Mr. Yeltsin earlier this year for president of Russia on an extreme hardline platform, so the report that he was siding with Mr. Yeltsin came as a surprise. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

At the same time, Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov was reported to be ill and temporarily handing over his duties to military Chief of General Staff Mikhail Moiseyev.

The "illness" was likely to be more political than physical, and a sign of cracks appearing in the eight-man Emergency Committee that deposed Mikhail Gorbachev.

Meanwhile, there were defections of elite units, an apparent uncertainty over how to handle

the opposition, and the bewilderment of average soldiers and junior officers who did not want to fire at their own people.

Mr. Yeltsin reported Tuesday that the Tatarskaya Motor Rifle Division and the elite Kontinrovsky Tank Guard Division expressed willingness to defend the Russian Parliament, according to Vladimir Lukin, head of the Russian Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee.

Peter Howard, editor of Jane's Defence Weekly in London, said some paratroopers of the elite Tuja Regiment from the 106th Guards Airborne Division were also reported to have joined Mr. Yeltsin.

"If you get elite units showing any signs of disaffection, it must be disturbing because the Soviet army was built on very strict, very solid discipline," he said.

Even if the numbers are small, he said, "the fact that any step out of line must be worrying for the new coup leaders."

Authorities imposed a curfew Tuesday night, but allowed thousands of people to remain on the streets. They sent their armoured vehicles onto the streets, but the few that approached Mr. Yeltsin's stronghold ended up in a bloody fight with an angry crowd.

At least two civilians were confirmed dead and witnesses said a third was killed. Mr. Yeltsin backers claimed they commanded nine armoured vehicles.

Overnight, opponents of the coup strengthened barricades around the Russian government building that has become the focal point of the resistance.

There were questions about how badly junior officers and soldiers wanted to fight. Many reports indicated that recruits were susceptible to being drawn into conversations with Soviets and then pledging that they would not use force against them.

Younger officers are thought to generally support Mr. Yeltsin. A ranking Defence Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the independent Soviet News Service Interfax that senior commanders were loyal Communists and most would fol-

low orders.

However, he added, "officers at all the lower levels are in most cases displaying opposite feelings."

"Most of them voted for Boris Yeltsin as Russia's president, and if need be, they may rise up in his support," said the official.

Richard Wolf, editor of Jane's Soviet High Command and a member of the Soviet Studies Centre at Sandhurst Military Academy in Britain, said the coup-makers may not achieve their aims quickly unless they are prepared to shed blood.

The hardliners are capable of dealing with unrest in one or two regions, he said.

"But this thing is like a bush fire," he said. "You'll have bush fires in at least six different areas. Then, the Soviet military will have on its hands six little mini-Afghanistans. It's as simple as that — with the exception that they'll be shooting at Soviet citizens, not Mujahideen."

Military could split

The Soviet military could split over the overthrow of Mr. Gorbachev if the new Kremlin rulers cannot control rank-and-file troops, Western military analysts said Tuesday.

Although the vast bulk of the four-million-strong armed forces have remained loyal, a handful of soldiers supported Russian President Boris Yeltsin's resistance to the takeover.

"There's a very distinct possibility that the attitude of the armed forces is divided on this," said Donald Kerr, a military analyst with the private think-tank Control Risks.

Mr. Yeltsin called on the military to defy the new hardline Communist rulers.

But there was no other immediate sign that the military's 74-year-old loyalty to the Communist Party was in danger.

Senior officers anticipated complete obedience, and Colonel Valery Ochirov, head of the Parliamentary Defence and Security Committee, said: "I exclude the danger of a split."

Soviet papers continue publishing after ban

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist hardliners who ousted President Mikhail Gorbachev have banned broadcasts by reformist radio and television stations, after previously banning all but nine newspapers.

Resistance to the media ban appeared quickly, however, from Moscow to the southern Republic of Moldova, where Prime Minister Valeriu Muravsky banned the official Communist Press, TASS reported.

The Union of Soviet Journalists faxed a strong anti-coup appeal to journalists, asking all journalists to "report only the truth."

The nine publications approved by the coup committee printed commentaries from individuals applauding the takeover.

On Monday, the committee of Soviet hardliners that ousted Gorbachev from power took control of the country's mass media and forbade independent publications. The KGB also silenced Russian Television and shut down broadcast stations in Lithuania's second largest city of Kaunas, and in the Latvian capital of Riga.

On Tuesday, the nightly government TV newscast Vremya reported that the committee had imposed a formal ban on all broadcasting other than that controlled by the State Committee for Television and Radio.

The resolution specifically ordered the suspension of the "activities of Russian Television and radio and Moscow Echo Radio as not contributing to the stabilisation of the situation in the country."

Moscow Echo had been taken off the air early Monday after 10 KGB agents barged into its offices and stopped all transmission, said Moscow Echo journalist Vladimir Varfolomeyev.

The station resumed transmitting Tuesday afternoon after gaining permission and help from the Moscow City Council and the Russian government, he said.

At 10:55 p.m. Tuesday evening, the station stopped broadcasting, then resumed 90 minutes later. But about an hour later it went off the air again.

Anatoly Lyzenko, the head of Russian Television, said he didn't know what he was going to do about the new broadcasting ban.

"We can't do anything but protest, because we don't have the equipment to broadcast independently," he said in a phone interview.

Since the coup Monday, state television has been showing light entertainment interspersed with news broadcast and gloomy classical music.